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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/infrastructure; 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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## Contents

	Pages
<b>Research News</b>	
CIRDAP – SAARC – AMRTIA University Report Consultation	
Meeting on Agro-processing	1
Field Visit to the Project Area of One Haam One Farm in Bangladesh	3
Visit to Rural Development Academy, Hanoi	4
<b>Pilot Projects Update</b>	
Stakeholders Meeting for the proposed Project on "Powering up One Haam, One Farm: Making Every Household Ahaad" held	5
Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain to be held	7
Training Course for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving Productivity of Micro and Small Agro Food-processing Business to be held	7
<b>Training Activities</b>	
Training of Trainers' Programme on Agricultural Extension held in Myanmar	8
International Agricultural Expo at VIT University, India	9
IFDC Fellowship offered by Government of India	9
<b>Information and Communication</b>	
Training on Trickle GPS	10
Launching Ceremony of Online Booking Management Software	10
Joint Publication with Bangladesh University, Bangladesh	10
Quarterly CAL E-abstract Service	10
<b>Other News</b>	
New Staff at CIRDAP	11
Isom at CIRDAP	11
<b>Building Bridges</b>	
Mission Visit to India	12
Mission Visit to Myanmar	16
<b>Development News</b>	18

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Cover photo (Left) shows DG's working call on Hon'ble Minister Mr. Nazamul Hossain Chowdhury and Secretary Mr. Anwarul Hossain, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Cover photo (Right) shows DG's working call on Dr. Tin Win, Hon'ble Deputy Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar.

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## Research News

### CIRDAP – SAARC – AMRITA University Expert Consultation Meeting on Agro-processing

CIRDAP in collaboration with SAARC and Amrita University conducted an expert consultation meeting on “Assessment of the Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models” at Amrita University, Coimbatore from 16-19 August, 2016. The regional meeting focused on establishing a shared framework for rural development through small-scale agro-businesses. Experts from ten countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia attended the consultation meeting. Amrita School of Business, Amrita University, Coimbatore, India hosted the event.

The Consultation Meeting was inaugurated on 18 August 2016 by Dr. Sankaran K., Registrar, Amrita University as Chief Guest.



In his speech, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Tanginavulau, Director General of CIRDAP said that CIRDAP has an MoU with SAARC and the MoU is being implemented with this joint programme on Agro processing along with Amrita University. CIRDAP is very happy to be associated with SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC) based in Dhaka in this endeavor. CIRDAP is sharing the rich experiences of South East Asia by inviting three experts from Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia who will share their country experience with participants from the South Asia Region. We have Dr. Hassan from Malaysia, Mr. Pallop from Thailand and Mr. So Krissh from Indonesia as the experts from South East Asia.

DG, CIRDAP mentioned that in some CIRDAP member countries, successful attempts have been made to develop rural-based food processing SMEs. For example, some have developed well-integrated rural food processing industries employing state-of-the-art technologies and a participatory integrated rural development approach. Others have developed efficient production–processing–marketing chains through farmers’ associations. In this regard, the experiences of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia could be extremely useful for other SAARC member countries in the development of efficient and viable food processing SMEs.

He also said that Agro-processing has been globally considered as engines of economic growth as well as key instruments for promoting equitable development. The rural food processing industry can play a vital role in rural poverty alleviation and sustainable development in South Asian countries. It can enhance farm incomes by offering a ready market for farm products, generate off-farm employment, and reduce rural–urban migration.

Welcoming the delegates, Dr. R. Raghu Raman, Chairman, Amrita School of Business, said, “This initiative with SAARC countries and CIRDAP is a part of University’s roadmap to incorporate the United Nations’ mission on Environment and Development. Every speaker stressed on tackling the main issues of any development model, i.e. income inequity, gender inequity and lack of sustainability. The framework developed will be integrated with the developmental efforts taken by the University.”

In his speech as Special Guest, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) stated that “Agriculture is the major source of South Asian economy. SAC was established with a primary objective of strengthening the sector by focusing on research and technological interventions in the field, especially by establishing regional networks, providing inputs for developing regional policies and facilitating collaborative studies. This initiative goes in par with SAC’s objectives.”

Each country delegate presented his/her country’s agro-processing experiences, discussed the challenges faced and shared the successful research and business models adopted in the respective country. The delegates visited the villages near





Coimbatore to witness the sustainable practices adopted by Amrita University.

There was a panel discussion to come up with recommendations. The meeting adopted the following recommendations for follow-up by the member countries on policy and research issues:

**Policy:**

1. Harmonization of standards – (i) food safety of agro-processed products and (ii) agro-processing equipments

2. Regional cooperation on promotion of agro-processing for employment general and livelihood enhancement
3. Set a target - Increase GDP from agro-processed products
4. Clearly identify the focus of rural development policy – grass root economy or poverty alleviation
5. Coordination and implementation aspects need to be strengthened. Develop umbrella policy for agro-processing and rural development (in countries who do not have one)
6. Need to identify priority sectors in agro-processing and promote investment in these sectors
7. Accreditation of laboratories for processed products
8. Subsidies is also necessary for promoting agro processing
9. Extension need to be strengthened for promoting agro processing
- 10 .Introduce seed money for agro-based MSEs/SMEs start-up and phased release of loan.
- 11 .Membership to CIRDAP (Bhutan and Maldives) to avail support in Rural Development
- 12 .Develop a single window system for agro-processing
- 13 .Consistent backstopping from stakeholders need to be there

**The following 12 presentations were made in the meeting:**

Sl.	Topics of Presentations	Presented by
01	Assessment of Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models in Afghanistan	Mr. Kh. Mohd. Shafi Seddeqi
02	Assessment of Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models in Bangladesh	Dr. M.A. Matin
03	Assessment of Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models in Bhutan	Mr. Dechen Tshering
04	Rural Agro-Processing – An Indian Experience	Dr. K. Alagusundaram
05	Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models in Maldives	Mr. Ismail Rasheed
06	Assessment of Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models in Nepal	Mr. Santosh Raj Paudel
07	Assessment of Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models in Sri Lanka	Mr. Jayantha Ilankoon Menike
08	Agro-processing and Rural Development in Southeast Asia	Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran
09	Assessment of role of agro-processing as a key component of rural mass employment and rural development models in Indonesia	Mr. Ir. Kristiawan
10	Agro-processing and Product Development for Livelihood Enhancement: Malaysian Experience through AZAM Tani Project	S. Hassan
11	Thailand Experience on Agro-processing: OTOP	Mr. Pallop Tanjariyaporn
12	Strategic Approach for Linking Agro-processing to Rural Development in SAARC Countries	Dr. Sanjoy Banerji



#### **Research:**

1. Establish 1-2 technology incubation centres in all the SAARC Countries under the ICAR Programme
2. Conduct review the research findings on agro-processing to identify the research gap
3. Agro-processing and product development research need to be done at local level by educating and engaging the farmers
4. Study the causes for failing cooperatives so that they could be strengthened for promoting agro processing

#### **Extension and Development:**

1. All Agro-processing skill development should be hands-on
2. Target the capacity development programme to extension
3. Organise the SAARC regional exposition on agro-processing technologies
4. Development extension and development centre for education, awareness, technology transfer and linkage with research, government and market
5. Capacity development of researchers needs to be addressed
6. Organise SAARC level competition to promote best agro-processing practices
7. Develop a knowledge portal on agro-processing (CIRDAP)
8. SAC will coordinate with CIRDAP and Amrita University to develop idea and concept for a Action Research to be discussed with ICAR for support

The consultation meeting was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD and Training) and Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Asst. Programme Officer from CIRDAP, Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Sr. Programme Specialist from SAC and Dr. Sanjay Banerji, Professor Emeritus from Amrita University.

#### **Field Visit to the Project Area of One House One Farm in Bangladesh**

The vicious circle of poverty prevails in every village of Bangladesh. In order to break this vicious circle and improve the quality of life, people need to accumulate saving. Later it is possible to improve the standard of living of rural people through productive and social investment and prolonged consumption of the savings. In case of converting savings into investment, emphasis will be laid on gathering and transferring technologies relating to agriculture and agro-based industries. New technologies of production will be procured and later transferred those to the beneficiaries in order to raise production to the optimum level. Women's contributions to development are not properly taken cognizance though they constitute half of the country's population. On the other hand, labour force is not properly utilized. According to available statistics 22%

households of villages are headed by women. Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar i.e. One House One Farm (OHOF) is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh to ensure agro livelihood and family farming through e-financial inclusion and empowerment of the small holders and under privileged including women since 2010. The main objective of the project is to establish a process of empowerment through formation/activation of village based organization that will enable the villagers to organize themselves, mobilize resources, plan and implement the development activities.

#### **Overall Progress**

As of 31 October 2014, 40,527 village development organizations have been formed covering 2.5 million smallholders beneficiaries. Total savings accumulated by them was US\$75 million and the equivalent amount was provided by the Government as equity transferred to the smallholder account. At the same time, the Government also accumulated US\$105 million to the farm families as Grants. Thus, by the end of 4 years and 3 months period a total of US\$255 million fund was mobilized for 2.5 million smallholders. In the same period, 134,400 persons were provided skill development training in different trades. During the period US\$143 million were invested in 1.023 million small farms. Around 2.1 million beneficiaries have been brought under e-financial inclusion. According to the revised work plan, the project will cover 40,527 villages under the 2nd phase covering 50 million beneficiaries (Source website of the project).

#### **Purpose of the Visit Programme**

The government is looking forward to improve the livelihood situation of the beneficiaries through providing more amenities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. At the invitation of the Project Director, a three member team from CIRDAP consisting of Ms. Eva Benita Tuzon, Director Pilot Project Division along with





Mr. Shafiqur Rahman and Mr. David Hilton, Asst. Programme Officers of Research and Pilot Projects Division respectively visited the area for a quick assessment of the possible interventions on 19 June 2016. The team was guided by Mr. Nazir Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Government of Bangladesh and the Deputy Project Director, OHOF Project. Ms. Farhana Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer and also overall coordinator of the VDOs in the Upazila briefed about the project. Other staff of the project were present.

#### **Location of the Visit Site**

Two nearby villages were primarily chosen for the visit under Rupgonj Upazila Sadar. This Upazila is located in the remote area near Dhaka-Sylhet Highway under Narayanganj District, around one and a half hour drive from Dhaka City. However, due bad weather the beneficiaries were gather in the nearby school (Machimpur Govt. Primary School). One of the villages was Baroi para. A total of 75 beneficiaries were gathered out of 120. Rupgonj Upazila consists of 7 unions and each Upazila has 9 villages. So, a total of 63 village development organizations were formed during the first phase of the project (i.e. FY 2010-11 to FY 2011-12) covering 3,600 small holders and under privileged based on the set criteria.

#### **Meeting with Beneficiaries**

In order to understand the present condition of the beneficiaries, the team sat with the beneficiaries and discussed for about one and half hours regarding the progress of the project, their opportunities, problems etc. They shared their views openly and confidently. The team observed that the beneficiaries are satisfied with the progress of the project. However, they are concerned about the income earned from the loan scheme of the project. They demanded more loans with increased ceiling to earn more income though many borrowers already enjoyed more than two loans by this time and waiting for third or fourth even fifth loans. The area mostly suffered from cooking gas. Though the beneficiaries has gas line connection but due to short supply they are suffering a lot (33% reported). 17 per cent beneficiaries reported that they have problems of electricity, Around 40 per cent reported that they do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. The team while visiting the individual households also found that the beneficiaries suffer from toilet and cooking facilities. While asked about what type of intervention they would like to receive from the project. Only 20 per cent responded that they would love to receive renewable energy in their houses including its related training.

#### **Visit to Rural Development Academy, Bogra**

At the invitation of the Director General, Rural Development Academy (RDA), a team of CIRDAP led by Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau Director General, CIRDAP and accompanied by Director ICD, Director PPD and Asst. Programme Officer (Research) attended the valedictory programme of the Annual Planning Conference (APC) of RDA held at its campus, Bogra on 25 July 2016. The following areas were identified to cooperate:

##### **Training:**

- Hosting Regional Training Programmes
- Internship with RDA for students from CMCs universities/NIRD
- Post Graduate Training on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

##### **Action Research:**

CIRDAP would like to associate with:

- a) Action Research Project on Model Development of Rural Ecotourism for Rural Livelihood Upliftment through Public Private Partnership
- b) RDA-developed Two-storied Agriculture with Solar Powered Irrigation system and its multi-purpose use by utilization Solar energy.

##### **Information Communication:**

Emphasis would be given to publish research articles to CIRDAP Journal, CDD, e-news etc.

##### **Research:**

Research Division already started cooperation with RDA in the area of agro processing. DG, RDA will attend in the SAARC – CIRDAP Expert Consultation to be held on 16-21 August 2016 in Coimbatore, India. It is expected to continue the ties with RDA through the project proposal submitted for SDF Fund.







## Pilot Projects Update

### Stakeholders Meeting for the proposed Project on “Powering up One House, One Farm: Making Every Household Ahead” held

A stakeholders meeting on the proposed Pilot Project titled “Powering up One House, One Farm: Making Every Household Ahead” was held at CIRDAP headquarters in order to discuss regarding proposal development and submission process of the project. Proposal of USD 1 Million Grant for this project is to be submitted to UNDESA, focusing on integrating sustainable renewable energy in scaling up the project/programme titled “One House, One Farm (OHOF)/Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar (EBEK)” initiated by the Rural Development Cooperative Division (RDCD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

The collaboration for this project is proposed between CIRDAP and EBK-RDCD. Other specialized partners like ‘Hathay Bunano’ and ‘Barefoot College’ are expected to be involved in this project.

Chaired by Director General of CIRDAP, the meeting was attended by Mr. Sardar Abul Kalam, Additional Secretary, RDCD (represented Secretary RDCD), Mr. Mohammad Abul Qayyum, Additional Secretary and DG, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Mr. Salahuddin Mahmud, Additional Secretary and DG, BARD, Mr. Akber Hossain, Joint Secretary and Project Director, EBK, Mr. Pranab Kumer Ghose, Joint Secretary and DPD, EBK, Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Deputy Secretary and DPD, EBK, Md. Ziaul Hasan, Deputy Director (Planning), BRDB, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP, Mr. Syed Akikur Rahman, Accounts Manager, Hathay Bunano, Mr. Mohammad Rayhan Kabir, ED, Hathay Bunano, Mr. David Hilton, Asst. Programme Officer, PPD, CIRDAP, Mr. Shafiul Azam, Asst. Protocol Officer, CIRDAP, Mrs. Razia Sultana (Solar Mama), Solar Engineer, Barefoot College (BC), Mrs. Sokhina Begum (Solar Mama), Solar Engineer, BC, and Mrs. Monowara Khatun (Solar Mama), Solar Engineer, BC.

Agenda of the meeting were as follows: a) Background of the project proposal b) Presentation on the project concept and components which include knowledge exchange at Barefoot College, India c) Open-discussion on the details of implementation mechanisms, and e) Letter of support, brochures etc.

Welcoming all high officials of RDCD and other delegates, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG, CIRDAP briefed about the proposed pilot project following the discussions with the Hon’ble Minister and M.P. H.E. Engineer Khandker Mosharaf Hossain, MoLGRD&C, GoB. DG CIRDAP said that the grant proposal to be submitted to UNDESA by PPD, CIRDAP involving EBK which could be a model of pilot project, replicable to other CIRDAP Member Countries apart from the CIRDAP host country Bangladesh.

Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP presented a video presentation on EBK and a power point presentation on the Concept and Components of the Proposed Project.

The salient features of her presentation were as follows:

- Summary of the proposal with development objectives with anticipated results are like:





- Collaborating agencies address lack of access to renewable energy and create opportunity for alternative and sustainable solution using photovoltaic technology for household facilities and community managed e-transport for livelihood development.
- As anticipated results: Households under EBK (with priority) and rural communities access the basics social services, like livelihoods and enterprise development. Also, off grid and mini-grid systems have enabled them to reliable solar energy-operated public utility vehicles for mobility of their products.
- There will be incorporated in the proposal the estimated budgetary requirements based on further discussions with concerned stakeholders with EBK project personnel and using data.
- In terms of value addition it was mentioned that this will be in line with renewable energy with an interrogation of up-valuing dream of ending poverty by 2030.
- M&E system shall be designed and establish during consultation and planning stage based on result – based collaborative framework. There will be project steering committee consisted of chair, DG, CIRDAP and other concerned stakeholders. The M&E shall be done at all implementation phases supported by responsibility matrix.
- Supporting documents will be attached in grant proposal based with discussion of relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Sardar Abul Kalam, Additional Secretary, RDCD emphasized on the EBK as successful model of rural development in Bangladesh and suggested Rupganj to be selected as pilot project area, and in this regard, BARD and RDA, BRDB may provide necessary research support if necessary.



*Meeting in progress*

Mr. Salahuddin Mahmud, DG BARD made solidarity in the process of cooperation with CIRDAP regarding the proposed project. He thanking DG CIRDAP for inviting him said the renewable energy programme not only provide energy to EBK but also provide some essentials amenities like improve toilets, e-transportation etc. He emphasized of having copyright on the basis of some successful models that would be introduced.

Md. Ziaul Hasan, Deputy Director, (Planning), BRDB agreed to make collaboration with this process.

The DPD of EBK and Deputy Secretary Mr. Nazir Ahmad suggested including a compact area (not very far from Dhaka) under EBK in Rupganj Upazila since it is a pilot project proposed by CIRDAP. Besides, CIRDAP team made a recent field visit to Narsingal Gram (village) and Baroipara Gram under Rupganj Upazilla, Narayanganj District which are potential areas for coverage of project components. He said that the relevant data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and data from EBK can be used if necessary for the project proposal regarding poverty area of Bangladesh. In this regard, DG CIRDAP opined that decision on the project coverage would be taken in consultation with RDCD.

Mr. Mohammad Rayhan Kabir, ED, Hathay Bunano suggested including some of the areas as project coverage which are (i) Barisal district (ii) Char area under Sirajganj district, and (iii) Sundarban mangrove forest area under Bagerhat/Barguna districts, since these are situated in remote area and needy with no electricity coverage in some areas.

DG, CIRDAP made the wrap-up discussion as a “Way Forward” for submission the grant proposal by the Director, Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP. As a regional organisation CIRDAP may take up a successful model of rural development to the other CIRDAP Member Courtiers. However, for submission of this grant proposal DG, CIRDAP suggested that the relevant stakeholder should sit together and discuss further as requirement of the relevant data from EBK.

After the stakeholder meeting on the same date, there was a bilateral discussion among Director, PPD of CIRDAP, Joint Secretary and DPD of EBK, and Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Deputy Secretary and DPD of EBK. It was decided that there would be another meeting with Director Ms. Eva, CIRDAP with EBK on 31 July 2016 with relevant data, budget etc. before finalization of the grant proposal. DG, CIRDAP thanked all stakeholders for providing their valuable time and requested to join in the lunch.



## Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain to be held

The second collaborative project on “Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain” initiated by APO-Japan and CIRDAP is expected to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 26-28 October 2016. There are lots of preparatory coordination works which are now under way among the stakeholders to implement the project smoothly. The circulation of the project notification has been already sent by CIRDAP to prospective participants with the guideline of selection criteria for participants. Participants should be related to agricultural production, postharvest and processing technologies. The programme aims to provide a platform for presenting and discussing current issues and emerging challenges for Asian countries in meeting their national food requirements amid agricultural resource depletion and environmental degradation; share best practices and advanced knowledge on agro-eco innovations to build green food supply chains; and formulate a common agenda

for action for promoting productive, sustainable and green food supply chains in the region.

## Training Course for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving Productivity of Micro and Small Agro Food-processing Business to be held

The 3rd CIRDAP-APO collaborative capacity building programme entitled “Training Course for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving Productivity of Micro and Small Agro Food-processing Business” will be held from 7-11 November 2016 in the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India. The objectives of this programme are to enhance the skills of trainers who are involved in training women in the use of productivity tools and techniques, and improve the productivity and profitability of micro and small enterprises in rural areas.

### Pulse Recipe Competition and Exhibition

(Celebrating the Pulses – IYP 2016)

Many species of pulses are grown and consumed in different forms. Pulses with 20-25 percent of protein by weight make it important in human health. When eaten together with cereals, the protein quality in the diet is significantly improved and a complete protein is formed. Traditionally pulses are used in different ways and are widely consumed in the South Asia region in general. In Bangladesh, pulse consumption is very high and diverse. To appreciate and document the diversity of pulse based recipes in the Bangladesh diet, SAARC Agriculture Centre in collaboration with FAO-Bangladesh is organizing the “Pulse recipe competition and exhibition” in BARC campus on 8th December 2016. This activity is mainly aimed at supporting the pulses research and development and celebrate pulses under the aegis of International Year of Pulses-2016.

#### Methodology:

1. SAC will announce the organization of pulse recipe competition and exhibition through all the NARS, DAE and different projects and programs (Poster).
2. Any individual or team can submit the recipe following the prescribed format (below) within a stipulated date.
3. There will be 6 groups (Lentil (masur), Mung (mung), Chick pea (chola), Blackgram (mashkolia), Grasspea (khesari), and Pea (motor))
4. The recipe will be screened based on the following criteria by the panel:
  - a. Originality
  - b. Proportion of pulses used and combination with other ingredients/foods
  - c. Ease of preparation
  - d. Nutritional value
  - e. Cost
5. A team of panel will evaluate the recipe and judge the best recipe.
  - a. Select 10 best recipes per group based on the submission (Forms)
  - b. Ten selected recipes will be invited to come with their recipe (prepared) and with all the ingredients for display and exhibition.
  - c. The panel will test the recipe and interview the contestant – based on which all ten will be ranked.
  - d. First three will receive Cash Prize, Memento and Certificate; while the rest will be awarded Certificate of participation.
  - e. All 10 contestants – will also organize sales of their recipe after the competition is over.
6. The panel will also select the recipes to be compiled into a Booklet on Pulse Recipes of Bangladesh

#### Contest Rules

- Submissions must be original
- Every participant can send more than one recipe for the contest.
- The recipe should be preferably for four persons.
- Each recipe should contain right quantities for each ingredient, their purpose and the detailed process of preparing the dish.
- Submission may be modified anytime before contest closes
- Winners would be selected by a panel of chefs and nutritionist.
- The decision arrived at by the panel would be final and not open to debate by the contestants.
- SAARC Agriculture Centre reserves the right to use the recipes sent to us by the contestants.

#### Schedule

- 25th October 2016 Announcement of the Pulse Recipe Competition and call for participation
- 15th November 2016 Submit the Recipe to (nimmy\_301@yahoo.com with copy to director@sac.org.bd)
- 17th November 2016 Selection of the best recipe
- 28th November 2016 Invitation for the exhibition and contest
- 7th December 2016 Preparation of the stall and recipe
- 8th December 2016 Contest and Exhibition-cum-Sale of the recipe and Award of prize
- 31st December 2016 Publication of the Pulse Recipe Booklet

For more information, please visit:  
[www.sac.org.bd](http://www.sac.org.bd)





## Training Division

### Training of Trainers' Programme on Agricultural Extension held in Myanmar

CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Government of Myanmar organized "Training of Trainers' Programme on Agricultural Extension" from 29 August to 02 September 2016 at Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. This programme was participated by 30 agriculture extension officials from the different departments of the MoALI, Government of Myanmar.

The objectives of this training programme were to review the existing Agricultural Extension Methods in Myanmar; find out the way for solving critical issues in extension service of Myanmar; share experiences from the region; seek the effective way and modify extension approaches for farmers; built the capacity of extension agents; and adopt the suitable extension methods.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General of CIRDAP inaugurated the ToT Programme at Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw on 29 August 2016. Dr. Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary, MoALI was present in the programme as Chief Guest.

In his inaugural address DG, CIRDAP, mentioned that agricultural extension plays a crucial role in promoting agricultural productivity, increasing food security, improving rural livelihoods and promoting agriculture as an engine of pro-poor economic growth. Innovative approaches like the Training and Visit Extension System, farming systems

research, farming systems research and extension, and lab to land programme to strengthen research-extension-farmer's linkages at the field level need to be pursued. In agricultural research and extension the clients, i.e., farmers are now becoming partners. Market and environment considerations are driving the innovation process. Information, science and biotechnology are also greatly influencing agricultural research and extension. Research and extension, for instance, are depending more and more on communication and information tools. DG, CIRDAP informed that research and extension reforms are being undertaken by various governments to meet the changing needs of the farming community. In India, radical policy reforms and institutional restructuring are taking place to modernize the National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and the National Agriculture Extension Systems (NAES) to make the technology generation and technology dissemination system more farmer-driven and farmer accountable. He wished this training programme for the functionaries of agriculture extension in Myanmar will play a crucial role for the development of agriculture. He hoped that the trainers will disseminate their knowledge gained from this ToT in their respective work place and thus the Government of Myanmar and CIRDAP will be happy.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director (Agricultural Extension), Dr. Vikram Singh, Director (HRD) and Dr. M.A. Kareem, Deputy Director (Agricultural Extension) from MANAGE (a national organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India), Hyderabad, India served as Resource Persons who delivered sessions with different aspects of Agricultural Extension. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD and Training Division), CIRDAP coordinated the programme.

The Resource Persons took sessions on Good Governance in Agricultural Extension – Policy Issues; Convergence in Agricultural Extension – Case for Extension Mission; Operationalization of Agricultural Technology Management Agency [ATMA] – Experiences; Strategic Planning for Agricultural Extension – Process and Experience; Farm School – Effective tool for Farmer to Farmer Extension; Group Led Extension – Emergence of





Farmers Producers Companies; Work Ethics in Agricultural Extension; Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Extension; Agri-entrepreneurship Development – Moving from Agriculture to Agri-business; ICT in Agricultural Extension; and Market Led Extension.



*Dr. Tin Htut addressing the participants*

During the ToT Programme, groups were formed and assigned group tasks – Identification of critical areas for reforms in extension, such as policy and programmes, methods, education and research, manpower, infrastructure and finance etc. The programme focused on participatory and interactive mode. Background study materials were provided to the participants. There was a panel discussion consisting of programme team and local experts on innovations and challenges in agricultural extension.

The participants were taken to field study to get hands on experience and understand the ground realities. The participants presented their group reports and prepared future action plan. At the end of the programme, the participants evaluated the ToT programme and expressed satisfaction regarding productivity of the training programme. They also thanked the resource persons and CIRDAP for conducting the programme very efficiently.



## International Agricultural Expo at VIT University, India

Under the CIRDAP-VIT University MoU, CIRDAP collaborated with Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) University which organised an International Agriculture Expo at its campus in Tamil Nadu, India from 3-4 September 2016 to showcase best agricultural technologies.

CIRDAP identified several dryland irrigation technologies and invited the innovators to participate in this expo. Mr. Auke Idzenga, Co-Founder of Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI), Bacolod, Philippines, participated in this Agriculture Expo and exhibited IDFI Ram Pump. AIDFI offer technology transfer of ram pump to seriously interested organizations or individuals. He was fully sponsored by VIT University.

Leading technologies related to different areas of agriculture, including farming, irrigation, agro-processing, agro-marketing, livestock farming, alternative energy etc. were exhibited in this expo. The exhibition was attended by farmers, business leaders, agricultural corporations, agricultural cooperatives, agricultural supply shops, wholesalers, importers etc. from different parts of India.

The event offered the exhibitors a huge networking opportunity and an international exposure allowing them to expand their market in India, the most lucrative market for agricultural technology.

## ITEC Fellowships offered by Government of India

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](http://www.cirdap.org)).





## Information and Communication

### Training on Trimble GPS

Mr. Sunil Krishnan, Sales Manager-SAARC Region, Survey Division from Trimble Navigation India Pvt. Ltd, India, conducted a day-long operational training on “Trimble Global



Positioning System (GPS) Hardware and related Software” on 8 September 2016 at CIRDAP headquarters. DG CIRDAP presided over the programme explaining the importance of GIS in all spheres of rural development. Mr. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer, Mr. M.H. Kawsar Rudro, Asst. Information and Communication Officer and Mr. Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique, Publication Assistant from CIRDAP attended the training.

### Launching Ceremony of Online Booking Management Software

CIRDAP has developed Online Booking Management Software for CIRDAP Auditorium and International



Conference Centre to facilitate clients for online booking and reservation. On 25 September 2016 at CIRDAP auditorium, it was inaugurated by the Director General (DG) of CIRDAP where all CIRDAP professional and staff were also present there. After the inauguration ceremony, the software has been opened to the clients.

### Joint Publication with Southeast University, Bangladesh

CIRDAP in cooperation with Southeast University (SEU) organized a two-day long international conference on “Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Bangladesh: Sharing Asian Experiences” from March 5-6, 2016 at the Permanent Campus of SEU at Tejgaon in Dhaka, where a total of 20 papers were presented by representatives from seven different countries.

These papers have been proposed to publish a joint publication on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). In this

connection, Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Hakim, Dean (Acting), School of Arts and Social Science and Chairman, Dept. of Economics, Southeast University visited CIRDAP on 26 September 2016, and had a meeting with Director General of CIRDAP at the CIRDAP headquarters, where Director (ICD and Training) was also present.

### Quarterly CAL E-abstract Service

E-abstracts for September 2016 issue covering the period from July to September has been sent to the insider and outsider stakeholders of CIRDAP for easy access of current literature on Rural Development (RD) and Poverty Alleviation (PA). “CAL E-abstract” is a compendium of newly published articles (abstracts and citation) related to PA and RD in the Asia and Pacific region. These e-abstracts are compiled quarterly and collected from journals available in open source journals and subscribed journals, and made them available through E-abstract Services for CIRDAP’s staffs and professionals as well as CMCs.

### Recent Publication

- CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD-144)
- APJORD XXVI, No. 1, July 2016



## Other News

### New Staff at CIRDAP



Ms. Aparna Roy joined CIRDAP as Secretary (Administration and Finance Division) on 14 August 2016. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she worked for EXIM bank as contractual basis and for Jamuna Bank at Foreign Exchange Division as intern. She was involved with many charity works and arranged many programmes during her studentship at American International University, Bangladesh.



Mr. Nazib Neaz joined CIRDAP as Executive Assistant to DG on 07 August 2016. Before joining CIRDAP, he worked for the 'Channel 71' (TV channel) and 'Radio Amar'. He also served in a local NGO, namely Center for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS), as Programme Officer. He has experience on coordination of events, journalism, documentation and reports preparing.

### Intern at CIRDAP

Ms. Rumi Akter, a graduate from the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka has joined CIRDAP as intern for the duration of three months. She is assigned to do a desk research on "Aspects of Rural Development".



Late Mr. Shidhartha Sen Gupta, Property and Supply Assistant of CIRDAP passed away on 14 September 2016 at his residence in Mymensingh town, Bangladesh. All professional and Staff of CIRDAP expressed their sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family members.

### 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](mailto:infocom@cirdap.org) or [vasanthi@cirdap.org](mailto:vasanthi@cirdap.org))

### 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 [apjrd@cirdap.org](mailto:apjrd@cirdap.org). Notes to Contributors is available on CIRDAP website: [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org)

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

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





## Building Bridges

### Mission Visit to India

#### Meeting with Minister and Secretary, MoRD, GoI

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General (DG), CIRDAP and Director (ICD and Training), CIRDAP met the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar and Secretary Mr. Amarjeet Sinha, Ministry of Rural Development (RD), Government of India (GoI) on 22 August 2016 at New Delhi, India.



DG, CIRDAP introduced himself and thanked the Minister for continued support of India to CIRDAP. DG CIRDAP mentioning the historical link between India and Fiji and the Forum for India informed the Minister that GC and EC Chairpersons are from Fiji for the period 2016-2017 and DG of CIRDAP is also from Fiji. This team from Fiji intends to reshape CIRDAP to fulfill the aspiration of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) in the area of rural development and poverty alleviation. The Fiji team is very keen on bringing in more Membership from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in CIRDAP.

DG, CIRDAP mentioned that the recently formed Forum for India and Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) and informed the Hon'ble Minister that in November 2014, when FIPIC was launched, India had offered some major assistance projects. The projects offered include the setting up of a special USD one million fund for adapting to climate change and clean energy, establishing a trade office in India, Pan Pacific Islands e-network to improve digital connectivity,

extending visa on arrival at Indian airports for all the 14 Pacific Island countries, cooperation in space technology applications for improving the quality of life of the islands, and training to diplomats from Pacific Island countries. In addition, India has increased the annual "Grant-in-Aid" from USD 125,000 to 200,000 to each of the 14 Pacific Countries for community projects of their choice.

DG also mentioned that CIRDAP would offer its expertise to the Government of India for the Development of Pacific Island Countries. He stated that Pacific Island Countries

lacked the experience for preparing development related proposals. Preparation and implementation of project proposals can be done through CIRDAP, of which India is a member. CIRDAP has to find space to work together in PICs. DG, CIRDAP will be visiting PICs and Fiji to discuss with these countries regarding their needs, and after all home work, the proposal will be submitted to Government of India for consideration. CIRDAP will request the Government of India to implement the projects under Forum for India and Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

In this regard, the Hon'ble Minister mentioned it is a very good idea and

suggested to DG CIRDAP to route this proposal through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India as the MoRD will be guided all these issues by the MEA.

DG, CIRDAP briefed the Hon'ble Minister regarding Ministerial Meetings of CIRDAP held earlier in 1987 and 2010 both in Bangladesh and Ministerial Retreat in India in 2007. In this context, He requested India to take the lead to organize a Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Way Forward.

The Minister responded that India would be willing to organize the next Ministerial Meeting provided that the proposal should be discussed in the EC/GC and the request should emerge from that forum. The member countries should agree and the proposal should come through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. The draft declaration of the Ministerial Meeting also should be prepared and vetted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective member countries of CIRDAP.



DG, CIRDAP discussed with Hon'ble Minister and Secretary, MoRD, GoI regarding CIRDAP Centre at NIRD&PR which was proposed by India in the EC-29 and GC-19. The Minister was briefed about the proposal and he mentioned it is under consideration.

DG CIRDAP also mentioned that CIRDAP is proposing set up similar CIRDAP Coordinating Centres in every country of CMCs to facilitate the countries to implement projects/programmes in the respective member countries using the CIRDAP network. Such kind of Centres in the member countries will coordinate how the projects will be implemented. This proposal will be placed in the next EC and GC and will be discussed how the countries would like to fund such Centres and agreements will be made with respective countries to run such Centres in CMCs.

DG CIRDAP invited the Hon'ble Minister and Secretary to inaugurate the GIS Centre established at CIRDAP Headquarters at Dhaka, Bangladesh, which is funded by the Government of India. He mentioned as part of the inauguration of GIS Centre, CIRDAP is proposing to organize one week training programme on GIS for the rural development personnel of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh. DG also gave an update on VLC Centre which is also under consideration of MoRD to be established at CIRDAP Headquarter at Dhaka.

DG CIRDAP requested the Hon'ble Minister that MoRD may also consider to sponsor exposure visits for MoRD and other provincial officials on Microfinance in Bangladesh, as Bangladesh is the hub of microfinance, on OTOP in Thailand etc. Under the National Livelihood Mission Programme of the Ministry, this will be more suitable for the officers who are engaged in identifying alternative livelihood options in rural areas and also engaged in social mobilization. The District officials engaged in this work can be deputed by the Ministry to get exposure on best practices in CIRDAP Member Countries. CIRDAP will be very keen to facilitate such exposure visits.

#### **DG meets Joint Secretary, UNES, MEA, India**

During his mission visit to India, DG also met Mr. Manish Chauhan, Joint Secretary, UN Economic and Social Division (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI,

and Mr. Jaideep Mazumder, Joint Secretary (South), MEA, GoI on 23 August 2016 to discuss India's Cooperation to bring membership from PICs to CIRDAP.

DG, CIRDAP also briefed the Joint Secretary about functions and activities of CIRDAP, and wanted cooperation of the Joint Secretary, UNES, MEA to bring in more members from Pacific Island Nations for the development of PICs.

Mr. Chauhan welcoming DGCIRDAP mentioned that he was happy having a meeting with DG, CIRDAP for the first time with the UNES Division, under which CIRDAP is dealt with. Appreciating DG's proposal to be partner with India, he mentioned that this area/responsibility is under the Joint Secretary (South), MEA, and suggested that DG may discuss this issue with him.

On the afternoon of 23 August 2016, DG CIRDAP and Director (ICD and Training), CIRDAP had a separate meeting with Mr. Jaideep Mazumder, Joint Secretary (South) where Mr. Shiv Sagar, Under Secretary (South-III), MEA, GoI was also present.

Joint Secretary (South) suggested that the concept note on CIRDAP – India engagement with Pacific Island Countries (PICs) may be sent through the High Commission of India in Bangladesh. Mr. Mazumder also said this engagement with the PICs will continue specifically with Fiji but more can be done by engaging with PICs. This proposal merits attention as it is an opportunity to strengthen CIRDAP, UNES Division and Forum for India and Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). Fiji has seen the benefits of CIRDAP membership; and the same can be extended to the PICs to share the best practices of other member countries.





### **Courtesy Call on Secretary General, AARDO**

On 23 August 2016, DG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Engr. Wassfi Hassan El Sreihin, Secretary General, African Asian



Rural Development Organization (AARDO), New Delhi. During the meeting, Dr. Manoj Nardeo Singh, Asst. Secretary General and Dr. S.M. Ovais, Head, Capacity Building and Development Projects Division, AARDO, and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD & Training), CIRDAP were also present. The CIRDAP-AARDO MoU was discussed in the meeting. As decided, CIRDAP and AARDO will be organizing Round Table Conference on Agri Insurance in 2017.

Dr. Vasanthi mentioned that CIRDAP has initiated the process to organize the Round Table Conference by trying to identify knowledge partner on Agri Insurance. She said that we are in touch with Agri Insurance Company of India and awaiting their response. She requested the Secretary General of AARDO to suggest a focal point from AARDO on this matter.

In this regard, Secretary General of AARDO said Director (Training), AARDO will be the focal point. A 5-day long programme in January 2017 will be organized where common member countries of CIRDAP from Asia and AARDO member countries from Africa will participate.

### **Meeting with High Commissioner of Fiji in India**

On 24 August 2016, DG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ms. Namita Khatri, High Commissioner of Fiji in India and discussed with her CIRDAP issues. DG, CIRDAP briefed her about CIRDAP and Fiji becoming member of CIRDAP.



The High Commissioner of Fiji thanked CIRDAP for all the activities that benefited Fiji so far. She mentioned about the Capacity-building and Empowerment of Women SHGs through Social Mobilization and Micro-credit in Myanmar, Sri

Lanka and Vietnam, and requested CIRDAP to take up similar pilot projects in Fiji which will bring benefits to the communities and empower them. She mentioned that she has seen the list of pilot projects and research studies conducted by CIRDAP and would like CIRDAP to take similar pilot projects and research studies in Fiji. She also mentioned that Fiji could share its best practices with other countries like Fiji has drafted a legal framework for permanent resettlement of the displaced poor due to disaster. It has framed guidelines for communities' identification, ownership and other issues are covered in the framework. This best practice of Fiji could be shared with other CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), especially which are facing disaster.

DG, CIRDAP shared with her about his recent visit to the Kerala Institute of Rural Administration (KILA), where he was exposed to a very effective local governance system in Kerala, which are empowered with Functions, Functionaries and Finance (3Fs) devolved to local authorities and enables people's participation in governance. He said he is keen to share this good experience with the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Fiji.

DG shared with her about the membership of PICs in CIRDAP and FIPIC – Fiji team collaboration. DG informed her about his meetings with JS (South), MEA, which is dealing with FIPIC. He also informed her about India's interest to support CIRDAP in its engagement with PICs.



### Meeting with First Secretary, High Commission of PNG in India

DG met Ms. Seline Leo-Lohia, First Secretary, High Commission of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in India on 24 August 2016. DG discussed with her about the membership



of PNG with CIRDAP. Director (ICD and Training) gave a brief on CIRDAP membership process. Ms. Seline Leo-Lohia requested DG to send background paper for PNG's membership with CIRDAP.

### Meeting with DDG, ICAR, India

During mission visit to India, DG also met Mr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General and Dr. Devinder Dhingra, Principal Scientist (Process Engineering) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on 24 August 2016 to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CIRDAP and ICAR, as most of the CMCs are agriculture based and eager to learn from India's experience in agriculture.

It was agreed to send a draft MoU as per the requirement of CIRDAP and send it to

Dr. Devinder Dhingra, Principal Scientist with a copy to Deputy Director General of ICAR to follow it up.

Director (ICD and Training), CIRDAP shared with DDG, ICAR regarding CIRDAP is proposing a Round Table Conference on Agri Insurance in collaboration with AARDO.

CIRDAP is trying to identify knowledge partner and requested ICAR to guide CIRDAP in identifying knowledge partner.

They also mentioned about India and ASEAN summit on Agro-Processing. CIRDAP could be interested in this. DG, CIRDAP thanked the DDG, ICAR and the Principal Scientist, ICAR to give him the opportunity to spare their time for discussion with him.

### Meeting with Director, KILA

DG met Dr. P. P. Balan, Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) on 20 August 2016. He discussed with him the local government system in Kerala province and expressed interest to share this with Fiji, which is in the process of enhancing community participation.





### Visit to the Chelakkara Gramapanchayath, Kerala, India

Dr. P. P. Balan, Director, KILA arranged a field visit for DG CIRDAP and Director (ICD and Training) to interact with local government officials of Chelakkara Grama Panchayath. Mr. Unnikrishnan, President and Ms. Shybe Gopal, Secretary of Chelakkara Grama Panchayath along with other local government officials were also present during the discussion.

Chelakkara Gramapanchayath (local government) is one among the special grade local governments of the Kerala province, and the largest Panchayath in Thrissur District. The source of revenue of this local government is mainly from taxes and from other sources. The taxes include building tax and profession tax. The non tax revenue is mainly from the licence fee of the merchants and business dealers in the local government. Other revenue is the rent from the shopping



complex of the local government. Nominal fee regularly collected in the local government for Death Birth and Marriage Registration fee and permission fee for construction of residential and other building. The general purpose grant allotted by the Government is also categorized as own-fund. In addition to the above various grant allocated by the Central, State Government towards implementation of projects also is considered as revenue. Development Fund for General, Special Component Plan, Finance Commission Grant, Maintenance Grant for Roads and Maintenance Grant for Non Road Items etc are the General and important sources of revenue. More than that various Grants allocated towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Grant for cleanliness nutrition programmes and allotments granted by MLA, MP etc also are considered as general revenue of local government.

DG requested KILA Director to facilitate an exposure visit for Fijian officials, i.e Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Provincial Development and National Disaster Management and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. KILA Director appreciated the proposal and invited Fijian delegates to visit KILA. A team from Fiji will be visiting to India soon.

### Mission Visit to Myanmar

#### DG CIRDAP meets Deputy Union Minister, MoALI, Myanmar

On 29 August 2016, Director General paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Tun Winn, Deputy Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and discussed with him CIRDAP issues.





**DG meets Director General of Dept. of Rural Development, MoALI, Myanmar**



During the Mission Visit to Myanmar, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General of CIRDAP met Mr. U Khant Zaw, Director General and Mr. Myint Oo, Deputy Director General along with other officials of the Dept. of Rural Development (DoRD), which has been recently added to the CIRDAP contact ministry in Myanmar, namely Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. New name of the Ministry is now the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI). He discussed with the Director General on CIRDAP plan of actions on Rural Development in collaboration with DoRD.

**Meeting with Deputy Director General, Dept. of Agriculture, MoALI, Myanmar**

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD and Training), CIRDAP met Mr. Hla Myint Aung, Deputy Director General along with other official of the Dept. of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Myanmar on 01 Sept. 2016 to discuss CIRDAP-Myanmar Five Year Strategic Plan.







## Development News

### Fiji embracing E-Agriculture Development Strategy

Fiji is among the few countries in the world that is developing its national E-agriculture Strategy with technical assistance from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



*Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management*

The Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management Mr. Inia Seruiratu while opening the Stakeholders meeting in developing Fiji's first E-agriculture strategy said there are many challenges that impede deployment of appropriate Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for agriculture development on a large scale.

"A national e-agriculture strategy will help identify and address some of the challenges in a comprehensive manner and help Fiji leverage the best outcomes from emerging and innovative technologies," Minister Seruiratu said. Minister Seruiratu added that challenges borne by climate change are such that we need to pursue knowledge and technologies on climate smart agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Fiji 2020 Agricultural Sector Policy Agenda compliments the National Green Growth Framework to which the Fiji E-agriculture strategy is aligned to. "Once the national E-agriculture strategy for Fiji is accepted as a national document, it would pave the way for the implementation of sustainable ICT solutions to benefit the agriculture sector and the people of Fiji."

E-agriculture is an emerging field referring to agricultural services, technology dissemination and information delivered through the internet or related technologies. In the next few months, consultations with stakeholders would focus on developing a vision, action plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

*The Fiji Sun. July 01, 2016. Fiji.*

### Rooftop Paddy Seedbeds offer New Hope in Bangladesh

When Mr. Yusuf Farajee's Aman paddy seedbeds were destroyed by floodwaters this season, the farmer from Galua village in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila didn't sit idly by waiting for water to recede. Nor did he seek assistance from the local agriculture office. Rather, Yusuf found an innovative solution: he made new seedbeds atop the roof of his three-storeyed building. "It only needs a one-inch layer of soil," he says. "People in flood-prone areas can make these rooftop seedbeds easily."

The local agricultural office is suitably impressed. "It's common to grow fruit and vegetables on building roofs," says Rajapur's agriculture extension officer Tilok Ghosh. "But to plant paddy seeds there no doubt represents the start of a new chapter in paddy cultivation." He believes the innovation can save farmers from worry in areas at risk of flooding during the monsoon months. "It's an idea that can bring new hope to all farmers," he says.

Safe from floods and other natural disasters, rooftop seedbeds promise greater outcome surety. "I used to grow fruit and



*Mr. Yusuf Farajee, in white Punjabi, showing local agriculture officers the seedbeds he made atop the roof of his three-storey building in Jhalakathi.*



vegetables on the rooftop all-year-round,” explains Yusuf. “This is how I came upon the idea of planting paddy seeds there when the recent flood destroyed my seedbeds, with the land remaining submerged for a long while. I have allocated a hundred square feet of rooftop to Aman seeds, and the result is finer paddy plants than I used to get in the field,” he adds.

The rooftop seeds he has planted can be used to cover an acre of paddy field later. “I couldn’t imagine how successful this idea would be at the start,” says Yusuf. “Everyday farmers arrive from different places to inspect the rooftop seedbeds,” he continues, “which makes me happier still!”

Rajapur Upazila Agricultural Officer Md. Riaj Bahadur agrees the new approach to paddy farming can benefit Aman cultivators at times when paddy fields are submerged. “His success will contribute a lot to paddy farming in the region,” he says. Mr. Riaj also suggests that government building rooftops could be harnessed to provide additional rooftop seedbed space during times of flooding. “It’s a strategy that can greatly reduce the stress of farmers about the fate of their crops at such times,” he says.

*By M. Jahirul Islam Jewel with Andrew Eagle. The Daily Star. September 12, 2016. Bangladesh.*

## A Leading Initiative by Pakistan

Each year Pakistan loses 465 Billion PKR to Environmental Degradation. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has begun to proactively address climate change impacts and meet obligations under international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). As a front runner, KP has both the advantages and challenges of the first mover action planning for MEAs. The precedent it has set will trickle down into the initiatives of other provinces, thereby facilitating an integrated response. This would help provide a clear understanding of the national situation on climate action and international obligations under MEAs.



MEAs are legally binding agreements between several states and other subjects of international law, such as international organisations. MEAs address specific global environmental concerns and are part of the integrated efforts to address these concerns. They play a key role in the implementation of international environmental laws and conventions in different countries and ensure global participation. MEAs facilitate global efforts to address environmental issues and are complimentary to national and regional agreements.

With the dissolution of the MEAs Secretariat (Federal Institution), as a result of post 18th amendment, the responsibility of provincial governments in the implementation of MEAs has entered unknown territories. Action planning for MEAs is a stepping stone towards demystifying these responsibilities at the provincial level, in this case for KP. Pakistan is signatory to 14 MEAs, which according to the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC), belong to three clusters: Biodiversity and Land (7 MEAs); Atmosphere and Climate (4 MEAs); and Chemicals and Hazardous Waste (3 MEAs) related conventions. Thirteen of these MEAs apply to KP.

MEA Action Plans, even if initiated in only one province, can help in articulating national efforts towards meeting international obligations. A strong intent in meeting international obligations for MEAs can help governments, federal and provincial; secure funding from international bodies and donors. This can help channelize resources in a way, which is linked to global efforts and can enhance climate action, and protect, and conserve the environment. The MEAs Action Plans report for the province is a pioneering document, which, among others, provides an overview of the background, development, and uptake of MEAs in Pakistan, along with the knowledge synthesis of these agreements carrying a strong technical component.

The MEA Action Plans developed by Leadership for Environment and development (LEAD) Pakistan for KP prescribe sets of activities, prioritized over a five year timeline, selected according to the convention recommendations. Activities, such as research studies, training and capacity building, mass awareness campaigns, monitoring, evaluation, and verification, risk assessment and management, and incorporation into relevant curricula are part of the action plans. A generic action plan based on convention recommendations from the 14 MEAs has been developed, in order to facilitate replication of this process in other provinces of the country. These activities have been modularized in order to ensure cost effectiveness and ease of implementation. Resource requirements for each module of the activities have also been indicated in the action plans. Factors such as lack of knowledge of ground realities towards implementation, resource limitations, call for the need of an integrated approach (inter-provincial and intra-provincial).



The report extensively specifies responsibilities and obligations towards implementation and development of MEAs, at provincial and federal levels. The federal government is responsible for development of MEA (negotiation, adoption, and enforcement). However, MEA implementation (issue identification, project development and design, capacity building, MRV, and funding) is divided among the federal and provincial (national and sub-national) levels. The modularity of the developed actions steps is another distinctive feature of MEAs.

The 14 MEAs signed by Pakistan are, directly or indirectly, linked to the targets set out by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs and MEAs are both geared towards sustainability, sound environmental management, protecting biodiversity (flora, and fauna), conserving water bodies, climate action, and human health. Some MEAs can be directly linked to SDGs goals, as they promote development in harmony with nature, sustainable ecosystem management, and economically sound environmental technologies. Increased sustainability, reduction in environment degradation, and mitigating the drivers of climate change can result in indirect benefits, which can help increase food security and enhance social well-being.

Provincial Climate Change Policy of KP is a subset of MEA Action Plans. Therefore implementation of the plans will also ensure effective implementation of the policy. Implementation of the action plans, supplemented by capacity building and awareness raising will help to develop skills. This will expedite development of proposals and projects in this regard. It is hoped that the action plans will help the implementers secure funding from national and international donors. This will increase donor interest and link the activities of the government departments to global discourse. It will facilitate technology transfer, capacity building, and increase access to international finance. This ripple created by KP will help create waves in the other provinces of Pakistan and provide momentum to national efforts towards meeting obligations under MEAs and SDGs.

*The Nation. October 05, 2016. Pakistan*

## Digital Empowerment in Nepal

In a country where the literacy rate of women, on average, is 57.4 per cent, in comparison to that of men with 75.1 per cent (as per UNESCO Literacy Status of Nepal report, 2013), digital literacy is still a new frontier for adolescent girls of Nepal. Statistics show that while the emphasis on education for girls has been growing over the years, it remains inaccessible to a large population of girls. In addition to that, the whole idea of digital literacy is still a taboo, in some quarters. With factors like poverty, traditional values and gender inequality still pressing the Nepali society,

intervention in regards to information and communication technology literacy for girls seem too costly an affair for many families in the country.

A recent programme launched by the British Council Nepal aims to bridge this digital divide. In the course of the programme that gave girls digital and English language education, I was fortunate to traverse five districts, namely Lalitpur, Kavre, Arghakhanchi, Makwanpur, and Gumli. Each of these districts had clubs where adolescent girls indulged in their laptops and phablets, learning vital skills that were all but alien only a few short weeks ago. What was inspiring to witness was their sheer joy in learning, in trying to understand something new and earning self-confidence out of their acquired knowledge.



It is observed that many of their family members were not literate and their professions included agriculture and animal husbandry. It is motivating to see how people, even in rural Nepal, are becoming flexible in changing their mindsets from old school practices and allowing their daughters to attain a modern digital education. If the experience of watching young women bridge the digital gap was anything to go by, it is hopeful that Nepal will probably go every walk abreast with other technologically advanced countries in the future. And maybe, it just might be these happy young women leading the charge.

*By Thomas L Kelly. The Kathmandu Post. September 3, 2016.  
Nepal*

## Artisan weaves Way to Success with Silk Handbags in Lao PDR

Ms. Anousone Keobounma is immensely proud of her silk handicrafts that have been recognised under the One District, One Product (ODOP)' scheme in Chanthabouly district and hopes demand for them will increase in the years to come. She gained ODOP recognition last month, with her products becoming the seventh ODOP range in Chanthabouly district, the 33th in Vientiane, and the 118th in the country.



As a business operator, Ms. Anousone has observed that ODOP certification wins her more customers. More than 100 silken bags of different types and colours are on show at Anousone Handicrafts in Dondaeng village, Chanthabouly district and at her shop in Phonsavang market, in the same district, near Mittaphab Hospital.

Before receiving the ODOP certificate, she had to undergo a complicated series of steps to prove the worth of her woven products so they matched the Ministry of Industry and Commerce's standards. They had to be made from raw materials, which she sources mainly from Xamneua district, Huaphan province, to make *sinhs*, handbags, pillows, *sas hes*, tablecloths and other items.

She designs her products according to market demand and has been doing this kind of work for 10 years. Ms. Anousone is a skillful weaver of the traditional long skirt and she has lots of experience working with silk. While making *sinhs*, she observed that a lot of silk was wasted and, as she was so fond of the material, she did not want to throw anything away. So she dreamed up ways to recycle the leftover silk and used it to make other items that she could sell, beginning in 2009. At that time, she made only a small number of bags to test the market and found that the bags she was producing were exactly what her customers wanted as a fashion accessory.

Orders steadily increased and now Anousone Handicrafts currently produces more than 100 bags each day, with orders coming from people in Vientiane and the provinces. She estimates that her silk handbags enjoy an 80 per cent market share throughout the country. Prices range from 150,000 kip to 1 million kip, depending on the design and the quality of the weaving. Ms. Anousone says she would like more help from various government bodies to promote her products so that she can sell her handbags in regional and international markets. Her main customers are Lao, although some tourists who visit Laos and are charmed by Lao silk may buy some as gifts to take home with them.

She has learned that her innovative designs are attractive to customers and after 10 years in the business she is earning more money day by day. She has certainly found a successful market niche and is making the most of it.

*The Vientiane Times. September 10, 2016. Lao PDR.*

## Agriculture Insurance pushed in Vietnam

Vietnam must develop policies to promote the popularity of agriculture insurance, especially at a time when natural disasters are significantly impacting production, according to the Finance Ministry.

Nguyen Quang Huyen, Deputy Director of the Insurance Authority Agency under the Ministry of Finance, said it was

essential to continue insurance products for the agriculture sector because the pilot implementation proved its important role as a financial solution for farmers. "Policies to encourage farmers to buy agriculture products are needed," Huyen said.

Huyen said the Finance Ministry would work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other authorities on the continued implementation of agriculture insurance products on a large scale, and on a voluntary basis with financial support being provided to vulnerable groups like the poor and near-poor.

Regarding insurance for fishermen, Huyen said the ministry would push to implement Decree 67 on fishery development policies by removing bottlenecks that hurt insurance firms and fishermen. As of June 30, insurance for the fishery sector collected premiums worth VND387 billion (US\$17.3 million), with nearly 15,000 boats and 145,960 fishermen insured. Compensation was estimated at VND59.8 billion, to date. There were four insurance firms providing insurance to fishermen, including Bao Viet, Bao Minh, Petrolimex and PVI.



*A paddy field in the Mekong Delta's H?u Giang Province is affected by heavy rain.*

During the 2016-20 period, the ministry will focus on improving the legal framework for insurance operations, especially policies to encourage disaster insurance and diversifying insurance products to meet market demand. In addition, regulations on risk and financial management would be issued to enhance system safety, as well as the operation efficiency and competitiveness of insurance firms and the development of a market database to promote transparency and competition. The finance ministry's statistics showed that in the first half of this year, total premiums reached more than VN?38.6 trillion, representing a rise of 26 per cent over the same period last year.

There were 60 insurance firms and one foreign branch in Vietnam, including 29 non-life insurance, 17 life insurance, 12 brokerage and two reinsurance firms.

*The Vietnam News. August 10, 2016. Vietnam*



## *Calendar of CIRDAP Activities during October 2016 - February 2017*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Venue</b>
26-28 October 2016	APO – CIRDAP Programme: Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain	Bali, Indonesia
7-11 November 2016	APO – CIRDAP Programme: Training Course for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving the Productivity of Micro and Small Agro Food-processing Businesses	NIRD&PR Hyderabad, India
9-18 November 2016	CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Social Audit – The Indian Experience	NIRD&PR Hyderabad, India
November 2016	Inauguration of GIS Centre sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India	CIRDAP Dhaka, Bangladesh
November 2016	Inaugural Training Programme on GIS Applications for Rural Development for Bangladeshi Officials	CIRDAP Dhaka, Bangladesh
28 Nov.- 2 Dec. 2016	APO - CIRDAP Programme: Workshop on Agricultural Insurance Systems	Manila, Philippines
12-21 Dec. 2016	CIRDAP - NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Smart Agriculture	NIRD&PR Hyderabad, India
Nov./Dec. 2016	Knowledge Exchange Visit to Barefoot College from One House One Farm (OHOF) under RDCD, MOLGRD&C, Government of Bangladesh	Barefoot College India
9-18 January 2017	CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Rural Technology	MARDI, Malaysia
Jan./Feb. 2017	CIRDAP-MARDI-AARDO Round Table Conference on Agricultural Insurance - A Climate Change Adaptation Tool in African, Asian and Pacific Regions	Malaysia

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