

CIRDAP Report

2004



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, inter-governmental and autonomous organisation. It was established on 6 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. The Centre came into being to meet the felt-needs of the developing countries at that time as an institution for promoting integrated rural development in the region.

From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up as a Centre of 14 member countries. The member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of the Centre are to: (i) assist national action, (ii) promote regional co-operation, and (iii) act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion of integrated rural development through research, action research/pilot projects, training and information dissemination.

Amelioration of rural poverty in the Asia-Pacific region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP. The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four areas of concern: (1) agrarian development; (2) institutional/infrastructure development; (3) resource development including human resources; and (4) employment.

Within these areas of concern, the thematic areas identified for the Third Six-Year Plan (2002-2007) of the Centre are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. health, education and nutrition); Employment generation through micro-credit support; Infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; GO-NGO collaboration; Gender

issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for sustainable rural development. Operating through designated contact ministries and link institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes regional co-operation. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

Vision

Prosperous rural communities enjoying improved living conditions as a result of collaborative efforts of CMCs working together and learning from each other.

Mission

CIRDAP is an inter-governmental organisation mandated to facilitate the provision of services that will influence policy formulation and programme action towards rural development and poverty alleviation through a network of CIRDAP contact ministries and link institutions.



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Asia and the Pacific

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2004 *in Review*

Director General's Report



The economies of developing Asia and the Pacific have expanded robustly by about 6.8 per cent in the year 2004. But the impact of growth has been geographically unequal, with the rural areas lagging behind. In this context, CIRDAP has to play a greater role than before, both at national and regional levels.

As an organisation committed to regional co-operation in rural development and as a think tank for policy advocacy, CIRDAP is constantly redefining its role in the changing environment of development. The 1996-97 Institutional Self-assessment of CIRDAP's role, performance and future activities is an example in point. Based on the recommendations of the assessment exercise, the Third Six-Year Action Plan of CIRDAP (2002-2007) was drawn.

Having committed to the strategic role it has to play in poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development in the region, CIRDAP started reorienting itself suiting to the new priorities, strategies, and needs of its member countries. Despite scattered evidence of collaboration with other rural development players in the past, CIRDAP planned to strengthen its

relationship from now on with important stakeholders. Currently CIRDAP is seriously pursuing renewed collaborative relationships with national and international organisations working for rural development. The Centre's mutually reinforced internal and external environment determines, to a great extent, how the organisation can perform its tasks and fulfil its mandate. It requires some elaboration to indicate the context.

As per the findings of institutional self-assessment exercise, the external environment suggests certain difficulties, but the overall scenario appears favourable and indicates that there is an opportunity for CIRDAP to strengthen its reinforcing role in rural development and poverty alleviation efforts in the region. It is, therefore, crucial for CIRDAP to be constantly informed by the member countries about major changes occurring in the field of rural development in order to determine its appropriate directions and strategies to meet emerging challenges in the region. CIRDAP also needs to clarify its role and purpose and identify actions needed to remain a key player in the field of rural development in the Asia-Pacific region. Though the internal capacity of CIRDAP seems to indicate certain limitations, it can overcome these constraints and deliver outputs and services and can meet international standards and quality, as perceived by its link institutions, partner organisations and donors. In order to pursue its efforts to have a stronger presence in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation in the region, it was felt that CIRDAP had to take

some concrete measures to enhance its human resource capacity, strengthen organisational and inter-institutional linkages, and most importantly the financial resource base. The efforts have already started in that direction and will continue to be intensified further.

It was observed that strengthening the resource base (financial and human) and institutional capacities are crucial to tackle the issues on hand. The Sub-Committee set up by GC in the year 2000, while reviewing the existing institutional arrangements and linkages, also recognised the need for stronger institutional relationship between CMCs and CIRDAP through effective communication and networking. To this end, it felt, there should be one person both at the Ministry and the CLI levels, designated as CIRDAP's focal point. According to them, CIRDAP is a pioneer and front-ranking institution in the field of poverty alleviation and integrated rural development. The present CIRDAP charter and objectives are broad enough to proactively pursue poverty alleviation and integrated rural development efforts in tune with the mandated functions, but it needs to look into the future with a new perspective. It was felt that enrolment of new members, partnership building with regional organisations and more intimate policy direction from the Governing Council could go a long way in paving a "way forward" to CIRDAP.

In order to better serve the countries and set a tone for better regional and global co-operation towards poverty alleviation and sustainable rural



H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan (L), Minister for LGRD & C, Govt. of Bangladesh releasing a set of special publications brought out on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee on 5 July 2004.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebration, the Centre brought out a number of publications which included a commemorative volume of events viz., "25 Years of CIRDAP" with detailed information, facts, figures, and pictorial coverage and articles. A booklet on "CIRDAP Staff Profile (1979-2004)" containing names and profiles of staff (past and present) was also published. A

report "Rural Development Policies and Strategies" - was released covering a comprehensive review of member countries' efforts in rural development and poverty alleviation. Another report titled "Highlights of CIRDAP Projects 1996-2003", the sixth in its series, covering details on 99 projects implemented and completed during the period was also released.

development, CIRDAP initiated an internal review process in July 2004, immediately after my assuming charge as the Director General. Thus, the year embarked on a new wave to reflect on the past and to rethink for the future and to be open and flexible in its day-to-day operations. It allowed a fresh opportunity for thinking on new methods and systems for mainstreaming the Centre with the aid of new knowledge infrastructure.

The year 2004 also marked the joining of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a new member. Iran ratified the decision for CIRDAP membership and notified it to FAO Headquarters in Rome on 17 February 2004. On intimation, at the instance of the Chairperson of the Governing Council, CIRDAP did

necessary protocol for the entry of Iran into the CIRDAP family.

During the initial phase of the year 2004, the former Director General, Dr. Mya Maung visited Pakistan, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, India, Nepal and Iran as a part of his mission visits, met senior officials and had follow-up discussions with the embassies as well. During this year, an FAO/RAP-CIRDAP Sub-regional Workshop on Country Experiences on Decentralisation was held at LDTA, Nepal in February 2004, with the funding support from FAO-RAP, Bangkok. The proceedings were published by FAO-RAP and circulated to all member countries. I had a series of discussions with the FAO officials to take forward CIRDAP - FAO co-operation, including our joint efforts for capacity building for decentralisation in

the Asian countries. During the year, the second phase of CIRDAP - IFAD project on "Programme for Up-scaling and Linking Organisations of the Poor: Learning from Experiences of Civil Society Organisations and IFAD Projects in Asia" was initiated under the IFAD Technical Assistance Grant Agreement. The former Director General of CIRDAP attended its First Steering Committee Meeting organised by ANGOC, our partner in Manila in June 2004. He also attended a "Training and Economic and Social Survey Programme" along with scientists from Thailand and Malaysia in Yangon, in March 2004.

CIRDAP Celebrates Silver Jubilee

The year was of special significance as CIRDAP completed its 25 Years in July 2004 and celebrated the Silver Jubilee with a renewed hope.

Ameliorating rural poverty by strengthening national efforts and promoting regional co-operation has been the Centre's mandate throughout the last two decades. On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, the Centre renewed its commitments for the future, to meet the challenges ahead, to excel in every way, in every field of development intervention and serve its member countries better and to address the dire needs of the poor, with the motto: "FIGHTING POVERTY TOGETHER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT".

Revisiting the Mission of CIRDAP: Highlights

As mentioned earlier, coinciding with the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Centre, after assuming office on 6 July 2004, I have initiated a thorough review of past efforts, experiences and major issues and challenges that are being

encountered to achieve CIRDAP's vision and mission. The professionals and ex-professional staff and several experts have contributed to the process of consultation and sharing of opinions. It resulted in a draft policy document titled "The Mission of CIRDAP - A Fresh Look" which identified some of the major strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Centre such as:

- CIRDAP was established by the countries of Asia-Pacific region to exchange experiences on various innovative models of rural development (RD). Accordingly the objectives of the Centre were designed to assist national action and promote regional co-operation and act as a servicing institution for CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) with respect to rural development. These objectives are still relevant in the same scale, if not more.
- During the past decades, several new players have emerged in RD such as NGOs, INGOs, micro-finance institutions and civil societies with varied socio-economic agenda. It calls for a greater sectoral and institutional integration among local, national and regional players than ever before.
- CIRDAP has three-level policy making bodies such as the Governing Council (GC), the Executive Committee (EC) and the Technical Committee (TC) represented by the Ministers and Secretaries of Rural Development Ministries and heads of the leading national rural development institutions in the respective countries. As such it is a unique organisation with high level policy making bodies that systematically co-ordinates and provides policy directions in

rural development in the region through relevant research, training, action research/pilot projects and information dissemination activities. These bodies need to be utilised fully for a future break-through in CIRDAP's activities and expansion.

- The policy bodies of CIRDAP such as the Technical Committee, the Executive Committee and the Governing Council should be developed as a regional forum for policy dialogue, exchanging experiences and promoting regional co-operation for rural development and poverty alleviation across the region.
- The recent changes in the global economy bring an opportunity for CIRDAP to mainstream its activities at national, regional and global levels. But in order to avail the opportunities, it has to enhance its capabilities and abilities to work at par with other players, be competitive, productive, demand-driven, and be able to respond to the changing needs and priorities of the member countries in changing global and regional contexts.
- It was also felt that CIRDAP needed an urgent change in its working styles and systems, policies and procedures to better address the diverse needs of the countries in a new environment targeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The review also came up with a number of policy options, for the consideration of CIRDAP policy bodies, which were being emphasised at different policy-level meetings from time to time in one way or other, such as:

- The process of further strengthening collaboration and co-operation between/among CMCs, in which CIRDAP could play the role of a facilitator, should be worked out for policy consideration of EC and GC.
- CIRDAP should make efforts to establish institutional linkages with other regional bodies, such as SAARC, ASEAN, South Pacific Commission, etc. and collaborate with others like Non-Aligned Movement-Centre for South-South Technical Co-operation (NAM-CSSTC), UN-ESCAP and the Commonwealth Secretariat, FAO-RAP etc., in activities related to poverty alleviation and rural development in the region.
- CIRDAP could be developed as a converging point at regional level between government, NGOs and private sector participation in rural development and poverty alleviation and for policy advocacy.
- As an inter-governmental, regional and autonomous organisation in the area of RD, it should be supported, monitored and owned by CMCs.
- The organisational efficiency and professional strength of CIRDAP Headquarters should be enhanced accordingly in the areas, while being open to new strategies and methods, and be flexible enough to allow space for continuous improvement.

New Vision Document

The draft policy document was presented in the Twentieth Technical Committee (TC-20) Meeting held during 21-22 September 2004 at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

(HARTI) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was attended by representatives of all member countries (except Lao PDR), IRD expert (Japan), EU representative, Sri Lanka etc. The members appreciated the initiatives and provided a number of suggestions and guidelines to be incorporated before submission to the EC/GC members. FAO-RAP has also given a number of suggestions in this regard. Based on the new directions given by the TC, CIRDAP prepared a strategic framework paper which is to be placed in the forthcoming EC/GC meetings.

CIARPS

The Centre revived its In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) which was long over-due, in December 2004, and reviewed the activities of the year 2004 and formulated the plan of activities for the year 2005. During the discussions, suggestions were made towards sharpening the focus of the Centre, measures towards accountability to the member countries streamlining the systems for better management, actions towards more transparency and efficiency and organisational performance and to promote effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system within CIRDAP. The vision document presented during the TC was revised subsequently and sent to all the member countries and chosen experts for their comments. The report was also discussed with the Director General and professional staff of BARD, Comilla, Bangladesh.

Building Linkages

During July - December 2004, I have called on several dignitaries in Bangladesh and other CMCs which included the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Minister and Secretary, Ministry of LGRD and Co-operatives of Bangladesh as the host state and some Ministers and Secretaries of contact ministries in CMCs, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Executives

of international organisations, and Heads of CIRDAP Link Institutions, to discuss matters of mutual concern and to draw their attention for greater regional co-operation.

I have briefed the dignitaries on the new vision of developing CIRDAP as a Centre of Excellence and a think tank for policy advocacy in rural development in the Asia-Pacific region and establishing greater institutional linkage with other regional and international bodies. It drew lot of sympathy and support, and the member countries appeared inclined to pledge their all-possible support to the Centre during the years to come.

During these important contacts and discussions, several suggestions were received. Subsequently several proposals prepared by CIRDAP professionals were sent to NAM (Indonesia), ADB (Manila), FAO-RAP, IRRI (Manila), ASEAN (Indonesia), Ministry of Rural Development (Govt. of India), FAO Regional Office (Thailand), etc. There was a overwhelming response from NAM-CSSTC, Indonesia and the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and FAO-RAP, Thailand. Besides it was suggested that CIRDAP should carve its own place to attract CMCs and donors and be developed as a co-ordinating body of government, NGOs and private sector initiatives in the area of rural development at the regional level.

Strengthening CIRDAP's Sub-Regional Centre

The Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South East Asia (SOCSEA) in Jakarta, established in 1997 was to cater to the rural development needs of the sub-region - South East Asia. But due to financial and technical constraints, its activities were mainly funded by the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. Its regional and in-country

programmes are not enough to sustain large-scale activities in the region.

Having recognised the urgency to make SOCSEA play a greater role, a dialogue was initiated both with SOCSEA officials and officials of the Government of Indonesia. Several organisations like ASEAN, BAPPENAS and NAM-CSSTC have been identified for collaborative efforts. SOCSEA is now set to become a major partner in Indonesia's rural development efforts. While taking into account the prevailing situation in the operation of CIRDAP - SOCSEA and considering the related paragraphs in the agreement on the establishment of SOCSEA, it may be necessary to review the agreement to cope with the new vision policies of CIRDAP and SOCSEA working mechanisms. After my preliminary discussion with ASEAN officials, the sub-regional office is closely following up the matters for better CIRDAP-ASEAN co-operation.

During the year SOCSEA has organised a number of programmes, apart from participating in APO, ASEAN and other regional body meetings. It organised in-country training programmes of CIRDAP in association with the Government of the Province of Yogyakarta.

JICA Collaboration

Having successfully completed earlier programmes, JICA has collaborated with CIRDAP again in 2004 through a training programme for Zambian officials. CIRDAP has organised one-month long duration programme this year with the active assistance of a number of leading organisations in Bangladesh. These have gone a long way in implementing the on-going projects, supported by JICA (Japan) in Zambia. The feedback I received from them was very valuable to CIRDAP.

CIRDAP Desires to be Partner with SAARC and ASEAN

CIRDAP's strength lies in the partner institutions in the member countries, which have rich institutional, infrastructural and technical base. These institutions are an asset to the region to realise the objectives of rural development, particularly poverty alleviation. But its links with regional organisations like SAARC and ASEAN, who have similar objectives and whose members are CIRDAP members, are weak. Hence attempts were made to talk to the concerned officials to pursue matters further. The desire is to link up with SAARC and to become partner in the development fund pledged by some member countries.

CIRDAP prepared a concept paper on "SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund: The Role of CIRDAP" for possible collaboration with South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). The concept paper was submitted by CIRDAP through the High Commission of India in Dhaka on 12 December 2004. The paper has been received positively by the Government of India (GOI). Bangladesh showed interest in taking up the idea during the SAARC summit meeting, to be held in Dhaka. Meanwhile a detailed proposal specifying activities, implementation modalities, time-frame and budget is under preparation. It is expected that the fund will be provided to CIRDAP as the initial investment to prepare CIRDAP as a partner organisation to implement SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund, as and when it is appropriately set up. Attempts were also made to have working ties with ASEAN.

Pilot Project Activities

Knowledge and development experiences, generated out of the project activities, during the year in the member countries provide useful insights. CIRDAP's on-going pilot projects,

particularly the projects undertaken in Bangladesh and Myanmar, transformed institutional help to self-help in the community, which have less local back-up support earlier.

In Myanmar, a CIRDAP Pilot Project on Poverty Alleviation and Social Mobilisation in two villages viz., Tu Chaung in Ayeyar-Waddy Division and Yin Taik Kwin of Yangon Division resulted in a success story. With available fund from the Government of Japan provided earlier and later discontinued, CIRDAP initiated the project in 1999 covering a period of three years aiming at capacity building and empowerment of women self-help groups through a process of sensitisation, conscientisation and social mobilisation. This was done under the supervision of the Department of Agricultural Planning (DAP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the implementing agency in Myanmar. Its success encouraged the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok to provide fund for replication of the same project in another village, namely Kwin Chan Khone in Yangon Division.

Training

During the year 2004, as in the previous year 2003, with the financial support from the Government of India, three regional training programmes were carried out in collaboration with NIRD, Hyderabad, India, where all CIRDAP member countries have participated. Besides, CIRDAP organised a series of exposure visits on micro-finance in Bangladesh, sponsored by BIRD, Lucknow. Rural Development Training and Research Institute (RDTRI), Sri Lanka sponsored visiting of Sri Lankan officials to Bangladesh to study micro-finance institutions. A study tour of Indian officials to Thailand to study agro-based industries was sponsored by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. A series of training-cum-exposure visits for

grassroots implementation of the programme of self-help groups was sponsored by the Commissionerate of Women Empowerment and Self-Employment (CWSE) of Government of Andhra Pradesh, India. About 110 extension officials have studied micro-credit operations in Bangladesh.

Workshops

As reported earlier, besides holding FAO/RAP-CIRDAP Sub-regional Workshop on Country Experiences in Decentralisation in Kathmandu during 2004, CIRDAP Training Division organised a workshop on Preparing Guidelines for Good Governance at CIRDAP, Dhaka during 18-22 April 2004 in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. It emphasised good governance to create an enabling environment for achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The workshop was attended by senior-level government officials and experts from all the member countries and also an invited expert from UK. It was observed that poverty reduction goals cannot be achieved without decentralised structure in decision making, planning and implementation, and without partnership and coalition building. CIRDAP and the Commonwealth Secretariat have started playing an advocacy role in the Asian region for good governance, GO-NGO partnership, public sector reforms, etc. In line with the above, the member countries were urged to facilitate achieving the objectives enunciated in the MDGs, through effective social and public sector management policies. Policy commitment of government is needed to achieve MDGs, especially in social sector and poverty alleviation and with respect to health and family welfare, maternal and child health (MCH) care, anti-HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB and waterborne diseases, etc. in particular. Resource Commitment is needed to adequately fund disease

prevention (PHC) and intensive care to meet the above tasks.

Information Dissemination

CIRDAP has started emphasising the usage of Information Technology (IT) for rural development. It has created its own in-house capacity to support the member states. Efforts are being taken to widen the network. Its library has been automated and some member countries are now linked with the Centre through Internet connectivity. A Rural Development Communication Network (RDCN) was made possible with the support from IDRC. Since 1997 CIRDAP was a Content Partner of PAN-Asia Networking of IDRC based in Singapore. CIRDAP website (cirdap.org.sg) is being hosted by the ASEAN Foundation in Jakarta. A new agreement has been signed in June 2004 between CIRDAP and the ASEAN Foundation for hosting website and e-commerce. The activities to be undertaken under the collaborative arrangement include, among others, developing and establishing a centralised e-commerce platform that will allow the participating institutions to set up e-shop to sell their intellectual products online and accept credit card payment. In the year under review, CIRDAP initiated action on broadband connectivity and set up a high-speed data communication backbone to speeding transmission and interconnectivity. As a follow-up, Local Area Network (LAN) is being set up as part of the Centre's communications and data transmission network and will be completed soon.

CIRDAP also conducted a special collaborative training programme for PROMOTE (Programme to Motivate, Train and Employ female teachers in rural secondary schools) - a European Commission funded project of the

Ministry of Education of the Government of Bangladesh, during December 2004. The two-week customised training course was a part of PROMOTE's objectives to renovate Teachers Training Colleges (TTCs) libraries and to provide support to the librarians. The participants were drawn from different government TTCs in Bangladesh.

Research

The carried-over project of the previous year on "Appropriate Technologies for Rural Women" initiated in Myanmar and Pakistan is continuing, whose results will be presented in a workshop proposed at Myanmar during the next year.

An outline of the "Rural Development Report 2005" was prepared and discussed during TC-20 meeting. It is envisaged that the report which will be getting ready by the end of 2004, will be reviewed by external experts and will be ready for publication during 2005.

Rural Development Report

As a centre for furthering regional co-operation in Asia-Pacific, a rural development report (bi-annual) was earlier published by CIRDAP, to share information on policies and programmes and the status of rural development between member countries. Unfortunately due to reasons beyond control, the valuable document could not see the light of the day for nearly five years since the last report appeared. The first task therefore is to utilise the services of CIRDAP's professionals to identify the contents of such a report. After a series of discussions, sub-group tasks and brainstorming sessions, it was decided to move from a traditional

approach of publishing the data-related inputs of rural development in member countries to a modern approach of visiting rural development as an engine of growth in a globally changing environment - even incorporating socio-cultural-economic and environmental aspects. This is mostly to make the report a debatable one amongst all stakeholders and to generate a policy dialogue towards a unified view point in the region. The report hopefully will be circulated to CIRDAP's policy bodies before it meets in 2005.

Looking Forward

The year 2004 marked a leap forward in CIRDAP's activities and strengthening of professional linkages with its contact ministries and link institutions, rural development experts in the region and beyond, and international and national organisations. CIRDAP owes much to its partners - member governments, country link institutions, policy bodies and donor agencies like JICA, the Commonwealth Secretariat, FAO-RAP, IFAD etc., for what it was able to accomplish its task in 2004. Most important contributors to CIRDAP work were its resource persons, who have participated in three regional programmes held at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, Commonwealth Secretariat - CIRDAP workshop held in Dhaka and FAO-CIRDAP workshop held in Kathmandu. It was a useful experience for its member country officials who have presented respective country papers and facilitated knowledge and information sharing between all member countries. The participation of organisations like BRAC, ASA, BURO-Tangail, Grameen Bank, Proshika, and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Bangladesh

in facilitating CIRDAP to organise study-cum exposure visits for other country officials, NGOs and bankers has been a rewarding exercise during the year 2004. Likewise Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand co-operated with CIRDAP and provided an opportunity to study agro-processing industries in Thailand for a group of senior Indian Officials. International organisation like JICA helped CIRDAP to make its presence in Africa (Zambia) by requesting CIRDAP to organize programmes for Zambian Officials. The Commonwealth Secretariat has echoed the concept of good governance in the Asian region through CIRDAP by

sponsoring a series of programmes held at CIRDAP, like- wise, UNOPS sponsored a programme on Capacity Building for East Timor officials.

To all of them, I express my gratitude for their important support and collaboration without which CIRDAP would not have been able to fulfil its mandate.

CIRDAP now looks ahead for a decisive, well-concerted action and support of the member countries, its partner organisations and the donor communities. In order to reach the set goals with the support of its member countries, as envisioned in the Strategic Framework of the

millennium, CIRDAP's networks have to expand and any suggestions in this direction are welcome for the improvement of CIRDAP's future activities.



Dr. Durga P Paudyal
Director General

Policy Body Meeting

TC-20 Meeting

The twentieth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-20) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 21-22 September 2004, assisted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), the Link Institution of CIRDAP.

Delegates from the member countries, except Lao PDR, attended the meeting. Invited members such as CIRDAP's IRD expert (Japan) and Director, Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India, have also attended the meeting, apart from observers from local international organisations like the European Union, UNDP etc.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Tissa Warnasuriya, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka. While welcoming the delegates to the historic city of Colombo, he desired to extend his best wishes to CIRDAP for its role in promoting national action and regional co-operation for poverty alleviation in the region and assured that Sri Lanka would play an active role in the future activities of the Centre.

Mr. D.G.P. Seneviratne, Director, HARTI, thanked CIRDAP for choosing HARTI as a venue for the meeting and stressed the need for coalition building with other regional bodies like South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP, in his address, urged the countries to focus attention on reducing regional disparities and structural imbalances in the distribution of assets and income. He emphasised the need to look towards coalition building with other regional-level organisations. He briefed the delegates on his recent efforts to link up CIRDAP with other regional players like SAARC and ASEAN and explained the contents of the new vision document prepared by CIRDAP through intensive in-house consultations.

According to the procedures laid down, Malaysia was unanimously elected Chairperson of TC-20. One of the highlights of TC-20 is presentation on countries' achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), prepared by each country. While some countries like Malaysia, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have shown significant developments in some sectors, still there are varying patterns in terms of reaching the targets viz. immunisation, child care, primary education etc. This suggests a need to monitor the progress under MDGs effectively. CIRDAP's proposal for a co-ordinating agency at regional level was welcomed by the delegates, and the need for standardisation of data collection procedures was emphasised.

During the meeting, the Technical Committee members have made a

number of suggestions. The minutes of the meeting, endorsed by the members and approved by the Chairperson, were circulated to all member governments and CIRDAP link institutions. A few suggestions that are relevant for recapitulation are presented below:

Suggestions

- CIRDAP was advised to take specific actions to increase its membership with the help of EC-GC members as new global players are emerging in the Asia-Pacific region.
- In line with the demands placed by the Indian organisations for exposure visits on micro-credit in Bangladesh, community development efforts in China, agro-processing in Thailand etc., exposure visits for other countries should be organised through the link institutions to study the successful projects in member countries
- The member governments of CIRDAP should make some commitment to share their available resources for promoting collaborative activities and to ensure regional co-operation. Also there should be some co-operation between CIRDAP and UN organisations, which can scout for grants through its member countries, for resources of UN bodies and other agencies particularly, in the

context of achieving MDGs by 2015. CIRDAP may take up a study on the fund-raising mechanism of successful NGOs in all member countries for better understanding of the problem.

- It is suggested that CIRDAP should make special efforts for regional convergence of policies and efforts that are more appropriate in the present context. It is desirable that one member country should try to enhance the capacity of other country, and for this necessary modalities may be worked out according to the needs of institutions in member countries.
- Because of the nature of emerging conflicts within the countries due to indigenous people's demand for their rights and necessity of promoting indigenous knowledge

system, these issues need to be addressed by CIRDAP in its action projects. The results of action research projects are to be properly documented and disseminated by the Centre to its member countries. Also CIRDAP should take up studies which are relevant for socio-economic development, viz. right to information, issues on rural-urban migration and continuum, social conflicts (due to failure in rural development programmes), and socio-economic origins of conflicts, joint development strategy for the development of border areas, up-gradation of traditional technology, disaster management, etc.

- CIRDAP should take a pro-active stance in building ties with regional networks and play the role of a knowledge-developing

centre for the cause of achieving MDGs, particularly alleviation of poverty in the region. CIRDAP's link institutions that have financial and technical resources can help disseminate knowledge and information to other member countries. The information regarding the success stories in the CMCs viz. Local Trade Fairs, Social Health Management Programme (Philippines) and Rural Technology Park (NIRD, India), that have potential for replicability can be exchanged among the countries.

- The TC-20 members have endorsed the vision document and suggested putting it up to the GC/EC members for approval.



Group photo of the TC-20 delegates in Colombo.

In-house Review - CIARPS

CIRDAP organised its In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) at its Headquarters at the initiative of the new Director General. It was discontinued for nearly one-decade. CIARPS - 2004 had three components - to present and discuss the strategic framework paper; to review the activities of the year 2004; and to formulate an action plan for the activities of 2005. It was held in two phases - one at CIRDAP and the other at BARD, Comilla in the form of a retreat.

In the first phase, discussions were held during 22, 23 and 28 December 2004 pertaining to CIRDAP in-house matters and were attended by CIRDAP professional and general staff members. In the second phase, the meeting was held on 29 December 2004 at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) campus, Kotbari, Comilla. Discussions have

taken place between CIRDAP officials and BARD management and faculty members. Important aspects of these discussions centred on strengthening collaboration between CIRDAP and its link institutions in the member countries.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP underlined the importance of CIARPS in its day-to-day functioning. He emphasised the need for collective thinking and collective planning and hoped that the process would help assess the needs of CMCs which would also enhance the quality of CIRDAP's professional work.

As a starting point, a paper titled "CIRDAP - A Forum for Regional Co-operation in Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: A Strategic Framework" was presented by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training). He touched upon various aspects beginning from the genesis of

CIRDAP and its role in the present context, need to revise the mission of CIRDAP, reorganising CIRDAP to fulfil the demands from member countries and determine the possible areas of resource generation to service its member countries. A detailed discussion followed the presentation and some thematic groups have been formed to formulate strategies so as to enhance the role of CIRDAP as a forum for regional co-operation, its networking capabilities and suggest measures for restructuring of CIRDAP Headquarters.

CIARPS at BARD

The second phase of CIARPS-2004 was held at BARD on 29th December. It included a field visit to a Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) at Joypur Village (near Comilla). The visit programme was co-ordinated by BARD officials.



CIARPS 2004 in session.

The CVDP is a co-operative model, encompassing all aspects of rural development. As the concept of integrated rural development is losing its relevance, there is a need to re-establish IRD with suitable modification in a changing scenario of the developing world. As the Director General, CIRDAP had a clear understanding of CVDP earlier, he recalled the vision of Akter Hamid Khan and suggested that the threshold achieved should lead to a second layer of development by promoting non-farm activities and their integration with the farm surplus achieved through CVDP.

- At present CVDP is integrating farm growth with other social inputs like education, communication, health care etc.
- The top-down approach practised earlier has now given place to bottom-up approach and CVDP is being modified in the changing context of IRD.
- The concept of donor dependency at the initial phase should lead to up-gradation so as to make

organisation's activities run on their own without donors' support.

The following are some of the results that reflect on the development of CIRDAP, as summed up during CIARPS-2004. These have some important policy implications:

- A national level coordination committee in each member country, as proposed in the CIRDAP agreement, is to be constituted and a permanent focal point at CLIs/CCMs has to be named to strengthen communication with the CMCs.
- In countries where link ministries perform the role of link institutions, some other professional RD institutions should also be identified by the member countries to extend knowledge inputs and maintain academic collaboration with CIRDAP.
- There is a need to fill up the existing vacancy of the office of the Deputy Director General to

monitor activities and to facilitate resource mobilisation. Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit (PRMU) set up earlier is a part of DDG's office, under the overall supervision of Director General.

- CIRDAP should revive the erstwhile technical advisory group (TAG) and other functional bodies, which are defunct. Competent programme divisions will ensure proper planning, fund, projects and professional strength.
- CIRDAP administration needs to be an instrument for proper management, monitoring and evaluation, supporting staff development and institutional maintenance.

On arriving at certain recommendations, the programme divisions have made a detailed presentation on their proposed work for the year 2005.



Concluding session of CIARPS 2004 at BARD, Comilla.



Mr. Ali Hossain (R), former Manager & President of CVDP Co-operative Society, briefing the audiences about the achievements of the society.



Focus Areas

Macro-economic and
adjustment policies

Studies on values of
participation

Women development

Credit mobilisation

Environment management

Empowerment

Research

Appropriate Technologies for Rural Women

New Project Proposals:

- Comparative Assessment of Decentralisation in Selected Countries
- Outline for Rural Development Report-2005
- Mechanism for Monitoring MDGs and RD Policies
- Developing Alternative Partnerships between CBOs, Public and Private Sector
- Enhancing Agricultural Productivity of Small Land Holding Groups

Research

Keeping in view CIRDAP's main areas of concern and the guidelines of the policy bodies of CIRDAP, the research agenda has been continuously focusing on identifying the implications of macro-economic policies at the micro-level and on poverty and the efficacy of alternative processes to call upon grassroots participation and enhancement of quality of life of the poor. The formulation of holistic and sustainable policies at the macro-level with appropriate downstream linkages requires access to and understanding of reliable and timely data on issues and constraints facing the poor. Valuable exercises to this end were undertaken in the past.

In view of the new challenges arising out of the recent trends in global integration, the research priorities need to be redirected to cater to the needs of the CMCs. The emerging global concerns related to poverty, environment, and sustainability, pro-poor policies, small enterprise development, gender development and equity, justice and growth, and new arrangement under WTO are effecting the least developed countries (LDCs), particularly the poor. There are some other related aspects, which also deserve attention such as, economic and political decentralisation to hear the voices of the poor and enable them participate in decision making and implementation, good governance to make services work for the poor, food security and agricultural growth issues.

The research outcomes have been widely disseminated through seminars, meetings, workshops, as well as through various forms of publications. A brief review of the major activities during 2004 is provided below.

Appropriate Technology for Rural Women

Background

This is a carried-over project from the previous year. It was initiated in Myanmar and Pakistan in 2001 as a follow-up of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on "Impact of Increased Household Income on the Role and Status of Women within the Household" held in Malaysia in 1998. The research project aimed at identifying, disseminating and field-testing appropriate technologies for improving the status of women work-force, with emphasis on productivity and income and employment generation.

Major Objectives

- Improving the quality of life of rural women through provision of appropriate technologies in line with needs and their capacities;
- Analysing the dominant features of the economic activities in the project areas; and
- Identifying their needs for adoption of appropriate technologies;
- Identifying and suggesting ways and means in which women's knowledge can be built around appropriate technologies; and
- Adopting simple/traditional technologies, used by women in different vocations from the region, for field application in other countries.

Status

The country experiment in Pakistan is near completion, as reported by the project staff. The Myanmar experiment is expected to be completed by December 2005. A regional workshop is being planned during 2005 in Yangon, Myanmar to discuss the findings of the experiments and to devise future course of action.

New Project Proposals

Comparative Assessment of Decentralisation in Selected Countries

The continued high incidence of poverty, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, reflects the inability of a large number of the people to meet their basic needs. Moreover, the process of poverty in these countries remains deep rooted in the structure of the society which entails, in addition to purchasing power, wider aspects of deprivation, gender disparities and other socio-economic concerns. Since the present concern of development is about people and a large majority in these countries subsists below the poverty threshold, it is essential for the development strategy to recognise that the existence of widespread poverty represents an unsustainable structural imbalance in these economies which require priority to facilitate the realisation of the full socio-economic potential. With increasing realisation of the importance of decentralisation concerns in development, the development goals and aspirations in the developing world are now articulated more in terms of improvements in the living standards and quality of life of the people. The broad vision calls for a "people centred" approach under which the good governance factor emerges as the instrument as well as the ultimate objective of development. The underlying policy paradigm requires strategies to enhance capability and expand choices so that people's deprivation and access to basic necessities emerge as the key issues in development. This requires strengthening of the institutional framework at the local level with focus on two aspects: (i) reorientation in the delivery system at the local level to function properly and respond to the local needs, and (ii) re-organisation of

receiving systems at local and community levels so that the people at the grassroots level can effectively participate in planning and implementation of local development programmes.

Despite wide variations in the structure of local institutions and their decentralised functioning across countries, effective decentralisation of local development administration is yet to emerge in most CMCs as revealed in the FAO-RAP's supported sub-regional workshop held in Kathmandu, Nepal during 24-26 February 2004. The government institutions and related agencies along with a properly designed multi-level local development planning structure are necessary prerequisites for rural development to succeed in the CMCs.

Outline for Rural Development Report-2005

Since 1987, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) has been preparing the CIRDAP Rural Development Report (RDR). The last report was published in May 1999, covering the period 1996-99. The RDR provides an update on the overall rural development state of affairs in the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). The Centre is now ready to publish the Seventh RDR, launching date of which would be during the Governing Council Meeting in 2005. "The Rural Development Report 2005" is a major deviation from the previous reports in that it attempts to catch the new trends, new emerging areas and new lines of action. The Centre reviewed the previous published RDRs by looking at the conventional as well as special topics featured at different periods of publication. Regularly presented were the economic, social and institutional aspects of rural development including different strategies and programmes undertaken in the CMCs as well as their impact. Relevant statistical data were also derived from popular international agencies and UN bodies.

It is envisaged that the present report would be able to capture different rural development initiatives taken in the CMCs from 2000 to 2005. The proposed RDR 2005 would be anchored basically on the cycle of policy processes, for which, as the report evolves, the readers would be able to have a picture of CMCs' varying and common RD schemes. Implicitly, through the RDR, CMCs could provide various models, experiences, lessons and probable RD alternatives.

The analytical part will also be supplemented with examples of success stories in different fields of RD in CMCs. The statistical part will complement the comparative analysis of RD scenario in the CMCs.

Mechanism for Monitoring MDGs and RD Policies

The forces shaping the changes in rural development and poverty alleviation in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) are likely to intensify further now as the CMCs continue their efforts to bring about desirable adjustments, restructuring and reforms in their economies to benefit from the dynamic global environment. The continuing high incidence of rural poverty in the CMCs made it necessary to further intensify the efforts at poverty reduction and achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) in the years to come. The prevention of environmental degradation and achievement of other social objectives are also closely linked to success in reducing poverty. This calls for further emphasis on increasing agricultural growth, encouraging non-farm activities and accelerating the diversification and growth of the economy particularly in the rural areas. So, substantial efforts have been taken in many countries at structural reforms and institution building with adjustments in strategies and policies to reallocate public expenditures to priority sectors to achieve the millennium development

goals set by all countries of the United Nations (UN) in 2000. It is observed that increased involvement of the NGOs, International NGOs and the private sector in rural development is essential to achieve the targets.

The targets of MDGs are desegregated and implemented under different ministries, departments, NGOs and public sectors at the country level. The monitoring data of different agencies need to be collected, collated and analysed at the national level to understand the progress. Thus, there is an urgent need of integrated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms at the national level for an improved planning and implementation system particularly in the field of rural development in the CMCs. It can be seen from the Millennium Indicators Development released by United Nations in October 2004, where, out of 14 CMCs, 8 could not provide data on poverty-related indicators since 2000 due to non-availability of data. Again one can also observe that the poverty data presented range from 1992 to 2000. Thus there is a real problem of collection, collation and analysis of progress at the country level. Similarly due to the absence of a regional forum of policy review and dialogue, there is no scope for regional exchange of knowledge, experience and co-operation in the areas of rural development. However the task is difficult in the absence of clear-cut methodologies and mechanisms as there are variation of policies, experiences and issues in each country. Based on the experience in the field, CIRDAP prepared this proposal with the hope to set up a mechanism for monitoring MDGs and rural development programmes and policies in the CMCs.

Developing Alternative Partnerships between CBOs, Public and Private Sector

The countries in the Asia-Pacific region have certain common characteristics with reference to rural

poverty, and hence there is a need for increased attention to alleviate poverty. The development paradigm has changed emphasising participatory development since 1990s. The last few years have witnessed significant developments in building a new architecture by promoting relationships between rural markets and private (multi-national companies) initiatives.

In the recent past, self-help groups (SHGs) are emerging as a separate institution to interact with the private sector. The process is expected to gain momentum and strength in the coming years as awareness and awakening deepen among the people. But most of the institutions are operating in isolation. Increasing need is felt for greater formal and informal interface and interaction among the community-based organisations (CBOs), government and private organisations. Considerable variations, however, exist in the nature and significance of such collaboration across countries.

Given the imperatives of rural development and efficacy of the CBOs and private sectors in dealing with specific issues, increased government-CBO-private sector collaboration is considered a pragmatic way of expediting rural development. What is required is to build on the successes and ensure an increased collaboration in other areas. The development of a sustainable collaboration and partnership requires acceptance of some fundamental propositions among the partners. A variety of approaches and programmes have already been initiated, jointly by the government, CBOs and private sector to promote direct interventions for poverty elimination in many countries of the region e.g. Self-Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh in India; One Tambon One Product in Thailand, Tripartite Partnership for Agrarian

Reform and Rural Development (TRIPARRD) in the Philippines. The main purpose of these programmes is reduction of poverty with active participation of the private sector in the form of trading of inputs and marketing of products. Under such a situation government-CBO-private sector partnership in poverty elimination can be an effective step.

However, these organisations have not acquired statutory sanctity and recognition for their existence, growth and functioning. For making CBO-GO-private sector partnership effective, vigorous linkages and standardised procedures are absolutely necessary. A comprehensive study of the experiences in the selected countries, which are at various stages of economic and social development, will contribute to improved understanding of the relevance of CBOs, GOs and private sector partnership for pro-poor development at the local level and of the best practices that require to be promoted and replicated. The proposed study aims to contribute to this important field.

Enhancing Agricultural Productivity of Small Land Holding Groups

Rice and rice-based farming systems constitute the critical components of the food system in the Asia-Pacific region. With progressively increasing costs of expanding irrigated rice area and greater danger of the associated technologies to the ecology and the environment, it is both economically and socially desirable to increase the contribution of smallholders' farming systems to meet the increased consumption requirements and maintain regional self-sufficiency. While expansion in inter-regional trade is a possibility to ease such pressure, the political imperatives are unlikely to change in the near future

to cause a major shift in the contemporary commitment to the goal of national self-sufficiency in food production for the countries in the region. Under such circumstances, the agricultural performance of the region is likely to be increasingly governed by the success in improving smallholders' farming systems.

Another consideration in developing smallholders' farming systems is the problems the small and marginal farmers face in gaining adequate access to the new technologies. The poor farmers find it difficult to adopt such technologies since (i) their conditions differ from those where the technologies are developed; (ii) they do not have adequate resources to purchase the required inputs; (iii) the technologies do not readily apply to the crops grown or the livestock raised on their farms; or (iv) they have limited knowledge or access to these technologies. When the relatively large farmers or the farmers of favourable ecological environments adopt the new technologies, these farmers usually face worse conditions. They continue to subsist in poverty, and resource degradation follows human impoverishment.

The above context calls for a better understanding of the smallholders' farming systems and their environment. Adequate research inputs are needed in solving their problems with better technologies. The urgent need is to promote sustainable agriculture systems that incorporate ecology and equity. Lesser dependence on external inputs, while maintaining productivity and farmer empowerment, appears to be the critical components of sustainable agricultural development paradigm within the constraint of a limited resource-base of small farmers.



Focus Areas

- Income generation
- Micro-credit
- Gardening
- Home-level food processing
- Rural primary health care
- Family planning
- Non-formal education
- Rural resource mobilisation
- Up-scaling and linking organisations of the rural poor

Pilot Projects

Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas in Zambia

"Capacity Building of People's Organisations" Keeps on Going

Up-scaling and Linking Organisations of the Poor – IFAD Projects in Asia

New Project Proposals

Pilot Projects

Pilot Projects Division

After a decade of action research experience, CIRDAP has begun implementing pilot projects to expand its field level activities in the CMCs. The major considerations in formulating pilot projects are: effective and efficient participation of the target groups; integration of activities of rural development agencies at the community-level; and co-operation and collaboration with NGOs.

Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas in Zambia

The CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD), a methodology for participatory training experiences as developed by Dr. Hikaru Niki (a former JICA expert with CIRDAP who worked later in Zambia). This model was further refined and modified by him to help Zambian Extension Officials and is renamed as Participatory Approach to Sustainable Village Development (PASViD).

On successful implementation of PASViD, the Government of Zambia extended the project to some more villages with JICA support under the name "Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas (PaViDIA)".

In order to implement PASViD and PaViDIA, CIRDAP was invited to conduct several training programmes and exposure visits for Zambian officials. Accordingly, a training programme was organised during 5 June to 6 July 2004 at CIRDAP Headquarters in Bangladesh. Mr. Martin Muyunda, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Mr. Justine Lubumbe, Acting Block Extension Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of the Republic of Zambia were deputed to attend the programme.

The objectives of the training-cum-exposure visit were to make them learn:

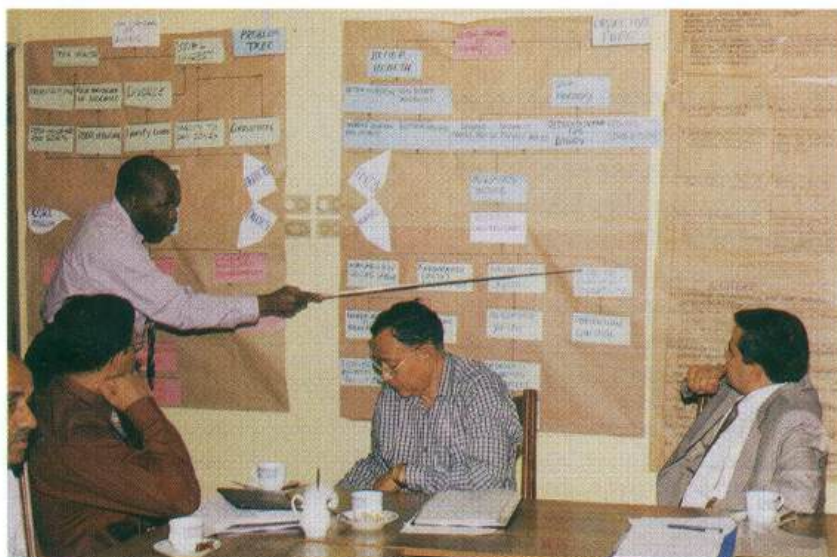
- the concept, principles and features of Community Information and Planning System (CIPS); CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD) and its application in CIRDAP pilot projects; Project Cycle Management (PCM); Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME); the activities of GOs and NGOs in the field of social mobilisation and micro-finance; community-level planning and income-generating activities; development of rural infrastructure; institutions, mechanisms, policies and tools for agriculture extension, co-operatives, self-help groups and community organisations; and development of human resources.

The training methods included lectures, interactive discussions and field visit, which were conducted by the professional and experienced experts in the respective subject areas, both from CIRDAP and outside.

A village in Comilla District was selected for practical session which

includes transect walk, core problem tree, objective tree, designing the Project Design Matrix (PDM) etc. Two professionals of CIRDAP Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao and Mr. David Hilton, and two faculty members Mr. M. K. Bhattacharjee and Mr. Abdul Kader of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla were involved in the village exercises. Participatory methodologies were also explained through video presentation, discussions and with community interaction and participation. At the end of the programme, the participants made an impressive presentation with the help of charts, PDM in the presence of local JICA officials.

The exposure visit to Bangladesh was found to be very useful for the Zambian trainees as expressed in the evaluation pro forma. It imparted knowledge, skills and experiences in the application of participatory planning techniques used in rural development projects. They got acquainted with micro-credit experiences to the poor, GO-NGO



A Zambian trainee presenting field study report.

collaboration and infrastructure development that have significantly contributed to reducing poverty levels in Bangladesh. The trainees were enthusiastic to replicate the lessons in Zambian agriculture context to reduce poverty in the rural areas.

"Capacity Building of People's Organisations" Keeps on Going

The project "Capacity Building of People's Organisations (POs)" under Model Village in Rural Development (MVRD) initiated by CIRDAP has been completed in October 2004. Since the project has resulted in considerable gains, a request was made to the DG CIRDAP to continue the project for another five-year term, starting from November 2004, by BARD, the implementing agency. Director General of BARD presented a concept paper to DG. CIRDAP for extension of the project. An MOU between CIRDAP and BARD was signed on 29 December 2004 at BARD.

The Director (Pilot Projects) Ms. Sompit Punyaratabandhu accompanied by Programme Officer (PPD) Ms. San San Hla and Pilot Project Associate Mr. David Hilton visited Shimpur, the project village under Comilla Sadar Thana. The objective of the visit was to see the actual status of the beneficiaries and their post-project activities.

It is observed that the project helped in raising the socio-economic status of the women beneficiaries to a large extent. Access to the project loan helped them to be involved in various income generating projects. The women beneficiaries have built up their capacities and skills, and their participation in social activities has considerably improved.

The long-term objective of the project is to evolve a replicable model of RD, which is expected to bring about an

overall improvement of the villagers through active participation of the community themselves in the entire process of the change and development. BARD is implementing the project, and total cost of this five-year project is around US\$9,000. The seed money recollected from the loan disbursed to the beneficiaries will be used as the fund for this extended phase.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- To build an institutional set-up for all-round development of the village through active participation of the villagers and to make them self-reliant socially and economically by creating an urge for spontaneous participation in various development programmes.
- To equip the villagers with various skill training and thus to ensure their self-employment with various income-generating activities (IGAs) through micro-credit.
- To involve the villagers in short- and long-term planning and

implementing their programmes after conducting a village survey for required information.

- To help the villagers in achieving food autarky by motivating themselves in kitchen gardening for meeting their nutritional demand.
- To make efforts for developing a cadre of development workers by creating a pool of skilled manpower through imparting various skill trainings and developing a mechanism of information channel through which the villagers can get necessary information.

Probable Impact

- Institutional development of the villages by revitalising and reorganising the prevailing organisations.
- Increased income level especially for the women by allowing them to involve in various income-generating activities and skill training.



Presentation of Concept Paper for extension of MVRD project at BARD from DG, CIRDAP to ADG, BARD.

- Improved socio-economic status through participation in planning and implementation of the project.
- Equality, dignity and empowerment of women through leadership quality by providing them with information knowledge and improved technology. Healthy environment through activities of the project.

Up-scaling and Linking Organisation of the Poor— IFAD Projects in Asia

IFAD projects have generally incorporated institution building as part of the project design, particularly the building of organisations of the rural poor who are the target beneficiaries of the projects. For the IFAD poverty eradication projects to be successful, participation or the active involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries is essential. To fulfil that need, IFAD had implemented the project, "Participatory Processes: Learning from NGO Experiences in Asia and the Pacific (PLEA)" from 1998 to 2001. It was part of its effort to institutionalise participatory processes in the IFAD project cycle in the region. Among the PLEA outputs, documentation of best practices of Civil-Society Organisations (CSOs) on participatory approaches that could be adopted in IFAD projects was included.

A project was earlier implemented by CIRDAP in association with ANGOC, resulting in a book titled "Enhancing Ownership and Sustainability - A Resource Book on Participation" as a joint publication of IFAD, ANGOC, CIRDAP, SEARSOLIN, MYRADA and IIRR received appreciation. The second phase of the project was approved by IFAD in the year 2004. It came into effect from June 2004 and is expected to be completed by May 2007. The project is now renamed as "Strengthening Capacities of

BANGLADESH : CIRDAP-RDA (Bogra) Model Village in Rural Development (MVRD)

Project Highlights

The project was sponsored in 11 member countries in the region, aiming at developing a model for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural people. In Bogra, the 1st phase of the project was implemented during January 1999 to October 1996. In January 1997, the projects in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh were evaluated with positive results.

MVRD project in Bogra was considered the best one. Rural Development Academy (RDA) and beneficiaries of Magurgari Village under Sherpur Upazila (Police Station) of Bogra decided to continue the project up to 2005 making use of the rolled-up fund as seed capital. CIRDAP made available US\$1,000 towards seed money to RDA. After benchmark survey, out of 159, 155 beneficiaries were given training till June 2004 on various aspects which included account keeping, social forestry and environment, co-operation, seed production and preservation, technology and women empowerment. After the training, the beneficiaries were supported by micro-credit for undertaking 12 profitable income-generating activities (IGAs). According to one study, all the IGAs were found to be profitable. Although profitability varied from one activity to another, and depending on activities the percentage of profit ranged from 100 per cent to 250 per cent. The project supplied 33 water sealed latrines, 10 hand tube-wells, 2,577 fast growing tree-saplings, heifers and pullets to the community which included reproductive health services to 99 selected couples from among the beneficiaries.

Lessons to learn:

1. The rural poor could be organised into groups, and through groups profitable IGAs could be undertaken to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural poor. Group discipline and cohesion among group members could be transformed into group pressure, which could easily be utilised for repayment of loan.
2. Thrift savings of the rural poor could be accumulated for capital formation. Although the rural poor did not have regular income, with little motivation, they could continue to save a good amount.
3. Rural people are not ignorant and indifferent about the future prospect of controlling their family size. With little motivation and regular supply of contraceptive, their family size could easily be controlled.
4. Training and credit support had positive impact on production, income and self-employment of the rural poor.

Organisations of the Poor - Experiences in Asia (SCOPE)."

The SCOPE project is expected to go a step further in enabling the rural poor and hopes to document and analyse best practices from CSOs regarding practical approaches, tools, guidelines and mechanisms that can be adapted in the project development and implementation processes of IFAD's Asia and Pacific Division on capacity building and up-scaling of organisations of the poor.

The project covers five countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia,

Mongolia and Philippines. The project implementing organisations are CIRDAP and Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) with a total cost of US\$510,000. Distribution of project fund for ANGOC and CIRDAP is US\$347,000 and US\$103,000 respectively. Contribution in kind from CIRDAP and ANGOC includes 36 months of staff members' time, other regional staff time and use of office facilities estimated at US\$60,000.

The Objectives of the project are:

- to strengthen the capacity of the rural poor and their organisations; to enable the rural poor to form strong coalitions and federations; and
- to increase the capacity of IFAD and its partners to design and implement development actions of community-based organisations (CBOs) and promote policy linkages of CBOs through their clusters and federations.

Expected Output

This project is expected to bring out the following outputs:

1. Increased awareness and knowledge of IFAD staff and project partners in the Asian region regarding building organisations and coalitions of the rural poor.
2. Enhanced skills of IFAD project staff and CSO partners to implement field-tested tools and approaches to support and sustain CBOs development actions.
3. Professional, transparent, timely and responsive management of the SCOPE Project.

The project has been running for about seven months, and it is currently documenting the CSO best practices in Asia on building coalitions and federations of the poor

and drafting materials for producing resource manual. The project staff are preparing an assessment tool which will be used to identify the capacity-building needs of one selected IFAD project in each of the five countries in building organisations and coalitions of the rural poor.

New Project Proposals

CIRDAP and IRRI Discuss Co-operation in Organic Farming

Officials from CIRDAP and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Representative for Bangladesh discussed possible co-operation between CIRDAP and IRRI regarding organic farming in December 2004. The meeting was a follow-up action of a meeting between Directors General of CIRDAP and IRRI when Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG CIRDAP, called on Dr. P. Cantrell, DG IRRI, during his official trip to Philippines in October 2004.

The project "Transfer of Organic Farming Technology by Means of Vermiculture Practice through the State Agricultural Institutes" is not a new one that CIRDAP has proposed to IRRI. The idea is to renew CIRDAP's action research project implemented in Myanmar from August 2000 to May 2003. The study was successfully conducted in Myanmar with a much

positive note on soil fertility, environment friendliness and better crop quality. Initial research finding in pilot scale indicated that this organic farming technology by means of vermiculture is much promising to widely utilise in the field of vegetable and other orchard growers particularly the small farmers who are generally growing such kind of plants as their primary or secondary crop for their major source of income. If the project is funded, it will be implemented in Myanmar for two years. Donor will contribute US\$14,500 and Myanmar will contribute US\$9,100 in equivalent local currency.

The general objective of the project is to disseminate the low-cost organic farming technology throughout the country effectively and efficiently by using human resource capacity of the state agricultural institutes and to help farmers aware the environment friendly idea and cost-effective production technology through organic farming system. If the project comes through, it is expected to have achieved the following outcomes:

- Awareness of the benefits of organic farming; increased soil fertility; reserve fund for outstanding poor students; surplus from crop sales; and increased income of the farmers due to low input costs.

One Tambon One Product

After having found this successful model in Thailand, CIRDAP plans to undertake a project "Product Development of the Rural Poor Groups in CIRDAP Member Countries". This project is a replication of "One Tambon One Product (OTOP)" project, which has been implemented successfully in Thailand. This project has to begin on a small scale, and after successful implementation on a pilot scale, will be expanded to other villages for

replication. This project aims to help rural poor understand the value of their resources and ability, improve the product quality of the rural poor groups, expand the products' market and enhance the socio-economic status of the rural poor group members. The estimated total cost of the project is US\$99,000 and upon receiving the fund from proposed donor, CIRDAP will start implementing the project.



Focus Areas

Participatory approaches in rural development
 Decentralisation
 Capacity building
 Gender development
 Community development
 Project management
 Sustainable development
 Governance

Training

Sub-Regional Workshop

FAO/RAP-CIRDAP Sub-Regional Workshop on Country Experiences in Decentralisation in South Asia

International Workshop

The Commonwealth Secretariat - CIRDAP Follow-up Workshop on Preparing Guidelines for Good Governance

Regional Training Programmes

Technologies for Rural Development and Integrating them into Rural Development Schemes
Capacity Building of Rural Development Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes
Strategies and Programmes for Reducing Poverty for CIRDAP Member Countries

In-country Training Programmes: Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia

Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-Credit

Collaboration with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), India
Collaborative Programme with the Commissionerate of Women Empowerment and Self-Employment (CWESE)

Study Visit to Other CMCs

Indian Officials Visit Thailand

Training

Training Division

CIRDAP strengths in rural development training lie in its accumulated experience in the field of rural development through its programme activities. This provides a wealth of information for those interested in learning rural development. CIRDAP, with support from its partner organisations, conducts training activities at regional, sub-regional and in-country levels. These training programmes include short-term courses and workshops and seminars.

Sub-Regional Workshop

FAO/RAP-CIRDAP Workshop on Country Experiences in Decentralisation in South Asia

A joint FAO-RAP and CIRDAP workshop on Country Experiences in Decentralisation in the SAARC Region was held at the premises of the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Lalitpur, Nepal, on 24-26 February 2004. Twenty-seven (27) senior government officials and NGO representatives from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with FAO and CIRDAP representatives participated in the

meeting which aimed at building a coalition and strengthening strategic partnerships among all stakeholders. Apart from providing a forum for senior policy-makers from GOs, NGOs and donor agencies, the workshop had an objective to formulate recommendations for CIRDAP members and FAO for a regional assessment of decentralisation to strengthen linkages and activities between decentralisation and poverty alleviation. The participants presented their respective country papers. FAO (Mr. Wim Polman) and CIRDAP (Dr. Sudhakar Rao) have provided necessary technical and operational guidance to the workshop. The issues identified in the workshop are related to- local financial resource mobilisation, capacity building for participatory local planning, local government's role in promoting agro-related sub-sectors, enhancing access to productive resources and empowering women and disadvantaged sections to ensure their participation in local decision making leading to enhanced participation in rural support schemes.

In addition to paper presentation and discussions, two sub-groups worked

and had exhaustive discussion with the officials concerned. The output of this workshop has been presented in the form of a report, for subsequent actions by the FAO-RAP (RAP publication 2004/11). It is expected that follow-up actions will be taken by FAO and the concerned ministries of the SAARC member countries.

The FAO-RAP and CIRDAP workshop was to:

- provide a forum for senior policy-makers from GOs, NGOs and donor agencies from the SAARC region to take stock of on-going decentralisation measures, through a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and to suggest further actions;
- develop strategic partnerships amongst all stakeholders in decentralised planning and capacity building so as to strengthen the country's actions and FAO initiatives on decentralisation for poverty and hunger reduction;
- share country experiences in decentralisation and success cases, to build proper coalitions;
- formulate recommendations for FAO and other agencies for supporting a regional assessment of decentralisation and to strengthen further the linkages and activities related to decentralisation and poverty alleviation.

The inaugural address was given by the Hon'ble Minister for Local Development, HMs Government of Nepal. This was followed with a keynote address by DG, CIRDAP. The purpose and objectives of the workshop and expectations were presented by Mr. Wim Polman,



View of the FAO/RAP - CIRDAP Sub-Regional Workshop in Kathmandu.

FAO-RAP representative. Key issues that need to be discussed were also presented. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP and workshop co-ordinator worked on the modalities and created a proper framework for the workshop.

Later participating country representatives presented country papers on decentralisation. Seventeen (17) papers were presented, including the papers from experts of FAO-RAP and CIRDAP. Subsequently, two working groups were formed, with the tasks to come up with concrete suggestions and recommendations. The groups under guidance given by the Chairman after a series of deliberations, prepared their recommendations and presented them in the final day of the workshop.

The issues discussed relate to:

- Strengthening the decentralisation process and integrating it with rural development efforts. Sustainable agricultural (rural) development, empowerment and utilisation of services by the deprived sections of the society.
- Strengthening the efforts for coalition and partnership building for better implementation of a decentralised process, which would add to capacity building and support local level participatory planning.
- Managing decentralisation as a policy framework and as a tool for poverty reduction and combating hunger in the SAARC region.
- Strengthening the decentralisation process for Development Council (VDC) offices

capacity building for improved access to natural resource endowment, agro-resources and support services, rural enterprise development, which would ultimately lead to a rural development strategy. Enhanced participation and equitable local development are major issues in decentralisation for reducing extreme hunger and poverty in the SAARC region, the home for one-third of the rural poor in the world.

FAO - CIRDAP Concerns

The main contents of the country papers and presentations are to provide lessons learnt/gaps with particular reference to five selected themes, as the main agenda for discussion:

1. What is the role and experience of local governments (including the local government collaboration with civil society and private sector) in financial resource mobilisation.
2. What are the examples of problem-solving approaches at local level in resource mobilisation and success cases.
3. What is the current experience in capacity building for effective participatory local level planning and how does decentralisation work for the rural poor, women and for local empowerment.
4. What is the role of local governments in the promotion of income and employment generation activities, particularly in agriculture, livestock, non-timber forestry, small-scale enterprises, etc.
5. What is the role of local governments in enhancing access of rural poor for better utilisation of productive resources and building capacities for local

sustainable natural resource management, with best practices in local planning.

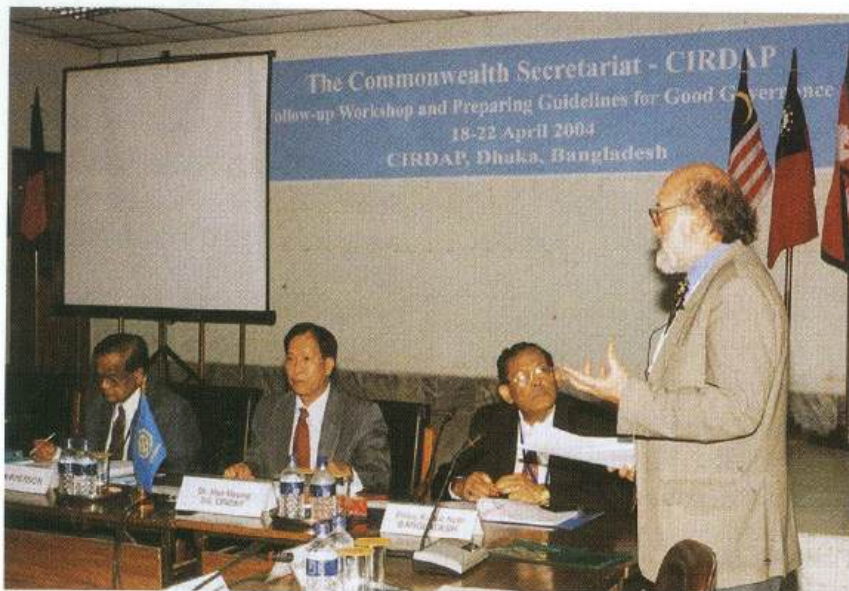
Mr. Wim Polman referred to the South Asian poverty and the discussions in FAO on areas like agriculture, natural resource management, poverty alleviation, etc. and said "We have to do a better job through decentralisation for reducing hunger in tune with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and reducing it by 50 per cent by 2015". In this aspect, he said, lessons from SAARC member countries are to be shared. CIRDAP and LDTA can act as a platform for facilitation and work out an action programme to know what type of capacity building is required and how to build partnerships and coalitions, Mr. Polman maintained.

The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, in association with Mr. N.B. Khadka, Director, LDTA and Mr. Wim Polman, FAO-RAP, Bangkok.

International Workshop

The Commonwealth - CIRDAP Workshop on Preparing Guidelines for Good Governance

Many national and international organisations have started placing renewed emphasis on good governance for poverty reduction and economic and social development. The two partners, i.e., the Commonwealth Secretariat, London and CIRDAP, Dhaka have been emphasising good governance to towards recommending appropriate actions and also visited District Development Council (DDC)/ Village



Prof. Joseph Mullen, University of Manchester presenting his paper at the workshop.

create an enabling environment for achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Poverty reduction goals cannot be achieved without decentralised structure in decision making, planning and implementation, and without partnership and coalition building. However, good governance both at national and regional levels, takes the precedence in some countries of the region. In this regard, CIRDAP and the Commonwealth Secretariat have started playing an advocacy role in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Commonwealth Secretariat of UK and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) had earlier organised a Regional Workshop on Governance, Partnership and Poverty on 14-17 December 2002 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. As a follow-up, it was felt that there was a need to have a discussion further on such subjects like decentralisation, human development, etc. Accordingly, a workshop on Preparation of Guidelines for Good Governance was organised jointly by CIRDAP and the Commonwealth Secretariat on 18-22

April 2004 at the Headquarters. Several experts from Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK and Vietnam attended the workshop. The workshop was funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London.

Objectives

With a set of recommendations emanating from the earlier workshop, it is felt desirable to continue the

endeavour with a special focus on the actions being taken by the Commonwealth - CIRDAP member countries. The overall objective is to encourage good policies, good institutions and good management to result in equity, efficiency and empowerment with governance based on values, trust and transparency. As a follow-up, some "best practices in good governance" are called for from the Commonwealth countries as a "learning exercise for others", which are documented in the country papers and presentations by the invited experts.

Composition and Structure

The Follow-up Workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Hon'ble Minister for LGRD & Co-operatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, was the Special Guest on the occasion. Mr. Md. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, Ministry of LGRD & Co-operatives, was the guest of honour.



Group photograph of the participants along with chief guest and other guests.

The plenary sessions of the workshop were divided into five broad themes:

1. Poverty and Governance;
2. Governance and Social and Public Sector Management;
3. Governance and Local Democratic Structures/Institutional Reforms;
4. Governance and Human Development and Democratisation; and
5. Best Practices in Good Governance, Decentralisation and Delivery of Services.

The plenary sessions were chaired by Dr. Saadat Husain, Secretary, Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh; Mr. Md. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, RDCD, Government of Bangladesh; Prof. Joseph Mullen, University of Manchester; Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Reddy, Director, IIPA, New Delhi, India; Hasnat Abdul Hye, Former Secretary, Government of Bangladesh and Dr. Mya Maung, former Director General, CIRDAP. Resource persons from renowned academic institutes and others from the CIRDAP/Commonwealth member countries presented keynote papers. The entire programme from proposal writing to conclusion was co-ordinated by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training and ICD), CIRDAP, along with his colleagues in Training Division, CIRDAP. He read out a message from Mr. M. Jasimuddin, Chief Programme Officer, The Commonwealth Secretariat, London, wishing the programme a success and assuring further co-operation in this regard. The workshop came out with some basic guidelines and recommendations for good governance (the report is under print).

Regional Training Programmes

CIRDAP and NIRD (India) organised three training programmes in India in August, September and October during 2004 with the fund generously provided by Government of India, to enhance regional co-operation by CIRDAP. The training programmes were related to very useful rural development subjects and are very relevant in the member country contexts. These are:

1. Technologies for Rural Development and integrating them into Rural Development Schemes;
2. Capacity Building of Rural Development Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes; and
3. Strategies and Programmes for Reducing Poverty for CIRDAP Member Countries.

Technologies for Rural Development and Integrating them into Rural Development Schemes

Though technologies for improving productivity in agriculture and related farm activities is being stressed at the policy level, not much of attention is being given to appropriate technologies that can be utilised by the rural poor and rural communities. Due to this, productivity levels of the Asia-Pacific countries are generally considered to be low in the rural sectors in farm, non-farm and off-farm activities. Productivity enhancement of people and resources alone can vitalise the rural economy.

There are a number of upstream and downstream activities related to agriculture and most of them are technology-related. Hence the programme aimed to bring all CIRDAP member countries to gain knowledge into the technological aspects for rural development.

The objectives of this programme was to:

- share rural development efforts and the on-going projects in India with other CIRDAP member countries;
- show the practical application of technology in rural development schemes and projects, exhibiting to promote institutional linkages between CIRDAP member countries;
- suggest methodologies for technology transfer to pro-poor targeted activities and enhance institution to institution linkage in Asia-Pacific region; and
- promote capacity building of officials involved in rural development policy making and strengthen government to government co-operation.

It may be mentioned that NIRD is developing a Rural Technology Park, which will be a model for Asia.

The training programme was held on 2-11 August 2004 at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, in association with CIRDAP. It was inaugurated by Prof. William D. Dar, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh, India. Mr. Lalit Mathur, DG, NIRD, presided over the function. Others in attendance were Dr. S.K. Bhanja (Professor and Head,



Dr. William Dar (L) and Mr. Lalit Mathur at the inaugural session.

Centre on Transfer of Technology, NIRD, Course Co-ordinator); Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), Course Co-ordinator from CIRDAP); and several faculty members of NIRD.

Prof. William D. Dar, in his inaugural address, mentioned that the issues like global warming, increasing water shortages, and burgeoning population will worsen the situation unless addressed urgently. Dealing with these challenges required a globally co-ordinated and multi-institutional effort. He also mentioned that technology generation is just one step in the chain of activities needed to improve the livelihoods of rural-farming communities. Developing these technologies into profitable commercial ventures, and empowering intermediaries and farming communities for their utilisation are also important. He said that CIRDAP has made a significant contribution in meeting the rural development goals, primarily in the dry tropics of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. "Finding ways to improve conditions for the world's poorest people is surely one of the most daunting challenges facing us", he said.

Mr. Lalit Mathur, DG, NIRD, while welcoming the delegates, mentioned that the objective of this training programme is not only to bring

participants together, but also to share experiences. He emphasised the need to promote livelihoods with the use of technology. He also mentioned that transfer of technology has to fit the indigenous environment. He assured the participants that NIRD would make all-out efforts to make their stay comfortable during the entire activity of the programme. Twenty-one (21) participants representing the countries - Bangladesh, India, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam have participated. The renowned resource persons from various parts of India were invited to share their knowledge and experiences on different subjects of relevance.

The valedictory session of the training programme was held on 11 August 2004. The programme was attended by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP; Mr. Lalit Mathur, DG, NIRD; Dr. S.K. Bhanja, Course Co-ordinator; Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Head (Training and ICD), CIRDAP, and faculty members of NIRD.

Dr. S.K. Bhanja, in his brief statement, mentioned how to integrate science and technology with rural development with a focus on agriculture-related technology, agro-processing, non-farm activity and information technology. He thanked Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and CIRDAP for organising such training programme at NIRD. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal felt happy for the successful conclusion of the programme and hoped that the training would be useful for the participants in their back home situations. He pointed out that there was uneven development in some countries and level of poverty was reduced in some countries while others were struggling. This was the main reason of conflicts. He put emphasis on technology to reduce

such imbalances. Many people were just left outside of technology ambit. "We should have to further understand the appropriateness of technology, indigenous technology and the need to optimally utilise these technologies for the benefit of the common people", he maintained. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, thanked and appreciated the staff of NIRD and DG, NIRD for extending support to all CMCs for sponsoring participants to attend the training programme. He also thanked the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for providing funds for organising the training programme.

Capacity Building of Rural Development Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes

The fight against poverty entails the implementation of a wide range of strategies - from the macro-policies needed to improve the economic environment to targeted programme intervention. India is credited with a wide range of programmes for area development, self-employment, and wage employment with specific programmes targeted towards the rural poor and the women. Its social sector projects cover a variety of activities. National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), in collaboration with CIRDAP, organised the training programme Capacity Building of Rural Development Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes at NIRD from 9 to 18 September 2004. By sharing regional experience of successful, innovative anti-poverty programmes, participants are expected to draw ideas and lessons that may be useful in their particular context and can be adapted and replicated in their country taking into account the peculiarities of their own situation.

Participants from 11 countries, viz., Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, attended the programme, sponsored by their governments.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To enable rural development functionaries to acquire knowledge and insights on the operations of anti-poverty programmes/rural development programmes in India;
- To provide participants with the opportunity to exchange views and information and share experience among the CIRDAP member countries with project implementers and beneficiaries of these programmes;
- To understand the need for community participation and capacity building in anti-poverty programme; and
- To provide skills on the application of techniques such as participatory rural appraisal, impact assessment, geographical information systems, etc.

H.E. Dr. Raguvansh Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development, Government of India, graced the occasion and inaugurated the programme on 9 September 2004 at NIRD, Hyderabad. The inaugural programme was attended by Mr. M. Shankar, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India; Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP; Mr. Chinmay Basu, Deputy Director General, NIRD; Dr. R.R. Prasad, Head and Professor, Centre for Social Development, NIRD, and Course Co-ordinator; Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training) and Co-ordinator from CIRDAP, and faculty members of NIRD were present during the inaugural session.

H.E. Dr. Raguvansh Prasad Singh, in his inaugural speech, said there is no single solution to overcome rural poverty. Different planning mechanisms and



H.E. Mr. Raguvansh Prasad Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development, India addressing the training session. Mr. M. Shankar (L), Secretary (RD) is also seen.

holistic and long-term approaches need to be adopted to help ensure success. The highest impact on poverty reduction will come from education and training for the rural poor, improving health care, research and development, good governance and decentralisation. The development community has to build coalitions to combat poverty as no single institution alone can eradicate poverty. New forms of partnerships between state, private sector, civil society and aid agencies need to be formed to combat poverty.

The Minister expressed his satisfaction that CIRDAP is doing very well in the region in eradicating rural poverty. He suggested that to fulfil the UN millennium goals, everybody must work together to overcome poverty.

Mr. M. Shankar, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, mentioned that while there was a problem on one side, there was an opportunity on the other. He explained in detail about the developmental programmes initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of

India and the success of the targeted programmes achieved so far in the fields of poverty alleviation, employment generation, natural resource management through watersheds, people's participation through Panchayati Raj (Decentralised Administration), etc.

Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, expressing his profound happiness at the presence of the Union Minister who was also the member of the Governing Council of CIRDAP, mentioned that while the efforts for regional integration, coalition building and seeking support from CIRDAP member countries will continue, concentration should simultaneously be given to capacity building of the functionaries involved in rural development at all levels. This means that it is needed to share information on policies, programmes and projects and also the successful models of rural development in the member countries for wider dissemination. He said "All of us have a common goal of reducing poverty in the region at the earliest. There are lessons for all of us, even from countries outside the region.

Our focus is to bring the poor to the forefront of economic activity, to reduce structural imbalances in distribution of assets and income and to promote gender equality".

Mr. Md. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh, was the chief guest during the valedictory function held on 19 September 2004. The session was also attended by Dr. R.R. Prasad, Course Co-ordinator; Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP and faculty members of NIRD.

Mr. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury mentioned that capacity building for rural development does not mean training alone but it is a kind of knowledge and experience sharing. He explained various concepts of poverty and the programmes and projects undertaken in Bangladesh for eradication of poverty. He thanked NIRD and the Government of India for organising and funding the training programme.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, mentioned that training is a continuous process. He expressed his happiness for the successful completion of the training programme. Dr. Suman Chandra, Associate Professor, NIRD, proposed a vote of thanks. He thanked all the persons and agencies that have co-operated to organise the training programme.

Strategies and Programmes for Reducing Poverty for CIRDAP Member Countries

The training programme covered various subjects that have a direct relevance to the problem of poverty and strategies to mitigate poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Apart from discussions, practical hands-on experience sessions, country presentations, documented

success case presentations, the themes covered by various experts include participatory approaches to rural development, wasteland development through watershed management, project planning and appraisal, logical framework for planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, social mobilisation for poverty alleviation, small entrepreneurship development, natural resource management through remote sensing and GIS, information technology for rural development and e-governance, micro-credit, good governance, capacity building for women empowerment, decentralised planning, and creating wealth and profits at the bottom of the pyramid.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S.K. Rao, Principal, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI). While tracing the developments from the colonial period, he said, in the process of development, peace and security are essential requirement and population growth in some countries is worsening the poverty situation.

An environment that does not promote investment and sustainable human effort

is not conducive to poverty reduction. He suggested that non-farm sector growth is essential for poverty reduction, apart from active intervention by private sector and NGOs. E-governance as a potential instrument for checking corruption, safety nets and disaster preparedness, independent mechanism for monitoring and evaluation are some of the other strategies that need to be addressed, to reduce poverty and hunger. Dr. S.K. Rao also mentioned that poverty is not a question of money and resources, but requires imagination and galvanising the energies of the people. Mr. Chinmay Basu, Deputy Director General, NIRD, presided over the inaugural session and welcomed the delegates to India, assuring a comfortable and memorable stay at NIRD. Mr. Ganga Dutt Awasti, Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal, delivered a special lecture on decentralisation "Sharing Experiences from the Region". Dr. Duga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, chaired the session and welcomed the participants to this important programme.



Dr. S. K. Rao, Principal, ASCI inaugurating the programme. Seated right to him is Dr. Chinmay Basu, Deputy Director General, NIRD and on his left are Dr. Raza Kutty and Dr. AC Jena.

The participants were taken to some sites on a study visit and historical places of interest and tourist spots in the city of Hyderabad. They interacted with the self-help groups while on a field visit to Ranga Reddy District near Hyderabad.

At the end of the 10-day programme (4 to 13 October 2004), a valedictory function was organised which was chaired by Dr. Duga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and presided over by Mr. Chinmay Basu, Deputy Director General of NIRD. Others present were Dr. B.K. Thapliyal, Dr. A.C. Jena, and Dr. Sudhakar Rao. The countries represented in the programme are -Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A total of 18 participants attended the programme.

Apart from CIRDAP professionals. Dr. P. Satish Chandra, Associate Professor, Training and Programme Division, NIRD, served as liaison officer to co-ordinate between CIRDAP and NIRD for organising the three training programmes at NIRD starting from August to October 2004.

In-Country Training Programmes

In-Country Training Programmes are part of capacity building of CIRDAP-IRD networks and link institutions. These programmes are organised by CLIs in technical collaboration with CIRDAP. Partial funding support is also being provided by CIRDAP Headquarters, out of the surplus resources generated by the Training Division.

Indonesia

With partial funding from CIRDAP, its Sub-regional Centre, SOCSEA, Jakarta

has organised a training programme on "Community Empowerment through Management of Small Non-formal Industry" between 25-27 June 2004 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This was jointly organised along with the government of the province of Yogyakarta.

Philippines

An In-Country training programme was organised by the Department of Agrarian Reforms (BARBD) of the Philippines through partial CIRDAP contribution for entry farm based training for provincial marketing officers during 2004.

Vietnam

CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Socialist Republic of Vietnam organised an In-Country Training Programme on "Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam" during 29 March to 2 April 2004 in Hanoi. Dr. Mya Maung, former Director General, CIRDAP and Mr. Md. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh attended

the training programme as resource persons from CIRDAP and delivered lectures.

Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-Credit

In recent years, micro-finance as one of the effective strategies for poverty alleviation, has gained momentum and generated interest among development professionals, practitioners, and policy- and decision-makers worldwide. Innovative approaches to provide micro-credit to the poor at grassroots level have been developed in many parts of the Asia-Pacific region. The world-renowned Grameen Bank has proved and demonstrated that the poor are bankable. The experiences of successful micro-finance institutions and projects must be shared with others who are looking for alternative ways of addressing the problems of inaccessibility of financial resources by the poor for poverty alleviation. As a regional organisation with networks and contacts in the region, CIRDAP provides a unique forum for inter- and intra- regional exchange of experiences. Micro-finance has been



Group photograph of the participants in Jakarta.



View of the training session.

included as one of the components of its programmes implemented through research, pilot projects and training.

Training-cum-Exposure visit is one of the regular activities of the Training Division of CIRDAP.

Collaboration with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD)

A Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Microcredit in association with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India was held at CIRDAP during 13-20 January 2004.

Twenty-three (23) participants - government officials, bankers, NGOs, etc. attended the training programme. The field visits on the activities of micro-finance institutions were organised by Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC etc., and their experiences and operational strategies were shared. The participants interacted with various women's groups in several villages and gathered first hand experience on micro-credit operations.

Apart from field visits, classroom sessions included were from CIRDAP (Dr. Sudhakar Rao), PKSf (Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed), Grameen Bank (Ms. Nurjahan Begum), ASA (Mr. Shafiqul Haq Chowdhury),

BRAC (Mr. Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury) and Proshika (Mr. Shahadat Hossain), who have shared their knowledge and experience on micro-credit.

Collaborative Programme with the Commissionerate of Women Empowerment and Self-Employment (CWESE)

The Special Commissionerate formed in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India, sought CIRDAP's assistance in organising a series of Training-cum-Exposure Visit programmes on micro-finance to its 105 officials during the year 2004. CWESE had the very distinction of forming the highest number of women's self-help groups in India.

The following is a brief statement on the programmes conducted in July, August and September 2004:

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Batch No.</i> | <i>Duration</i> | <i>No. of Participants</i> |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Batch-I | 07-14 July 2004 | 27 |
| 2. | Batch-II | 17-24 July 2004 | 30 |
| 3. | Batch-III | 17-24 August 2004 | 28 |
| 4. | Batch-IV | 27 August-02 Sept. 2004 | 20 |



Group photograph of the participants.



The programmes were organised in such a way that the officials from CWSE could gain knowledge and experience in Bangladesh, and these can be replicated for poverty alleviation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The exposure visits

focused mainly on four well-known micro-finance institutions (MFIs) in Bangladesh, namely, Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA and BURO-Tangail. The experiences gained were found to be helpful and useful to their back-home situation based on their feedback.

They have visited various micro-credit groups in villages, interacted with officials and exchanged notes on micro-credit operations in their country with Bangladesh women groups in various locations (Comilla, Cox's Bazar, Bogra, Tangail, Chittagong, etc.). The participants were awarded certificates, on successful completion of each of the exposure visits. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, presided over the valedictory session, where the participants composed poems and sang songs in the praise of CIRDAP and Bangladesh. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training and ICD), co-ordinated the programmes.

Study Visit to Other CMCs

Indian Officials Visit Thailand

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, requested CIRDAP to organise a study visit on Agro-Based Projects in Thailand. Accordingly CIRDAP organised the programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand from 10 to 17 January 2004. Seven members from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd., participated in the study visit programme. The delegation was interested in visiting the food processing/minor forest produce processing plants of the products like, tamarind, ginger, turmeric, jack fruit processing, tomato puree, natural dyes, etc. in Thailand.

The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP in association with Ms. Prajuab Lewchalermvongs, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand.



Focus Areas

IT related training
Video documentation
Library services
Communication networks
Publications
Asia-Pacific Journal of
Rural Development
CIRDAP Development
Digest
Institutional networking for
information dissemination
Support services to CIRDAP
professionals and CLIs

Information and Communication

IT Agreement with ASEAN Foundation

Twelfth WINISIS Course

Collaborative Training Programme with PROMOTE

Information and Communication

Information and Communication Division

The Information and Communication Division of CIRDAP continues to be the main channel for disseminating the information generated by the Centre's activities. In 2004, the infrastructure base of the Centre has been further strengthened. A number of computers have been upgraded and the groundwork for establishing the Local Area Network (LAN) has been done. From June 2004, the CIRDAP website was hosted by the ASEAN Foundation under an agreement. Two external library-related IT training courses were conducted, and one of them was under a special institutional collaborative arrangement.

The quarterly newsletter CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) was given a new look. The audio-visual programme on CIRDAP was further updated to include new information on the activities of the Centre. The services of the CIRDAP Aziz-Ul Haq Library were improved with a wider variety of services offered. Better access to on-line information was provided for the users.

✓ IT Agreement with ASEAN Foundation

A new agreement was signed between CIRDAP and ASEAN Foundation for hosting website and e-commerce in June 2004. The CIRDAP website (www.cirdap.org.sg) earlier hosted by the Singapore-based PanAsia Network, is now being hosted by the ASEAN Foundation (AF).

In this connection, Mr. Nathan Sarker, Computer Programmer, CIRDAP, attended a three-day training workshop on "ICT4D Collaboratory E-commerce" organised by ASEAN Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia, during 17-19 May 2004. Sixteen participants representing fourteen organisations around Asia participated in the training

workshop which was coincided with the launch of ICT4D ASEAN Collaboratory E-commerce Mall. One of the objectives of the training was to introduce the new e-commerce platform to the participants.

In 2003, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) entered into a partnership agreement with the AF, where AF will take over and continue to grow the Collaboratory's scope of activities under a project called the "ICT4D Collaboratory". Since the establishment of the new Collaboratory in Jakarta, a technical team has worked on the modification and updating of the six-year old e-commerce system developed by IDRC's Pan Asia Networking (PAN) Programme.

Since 1997, PAN had been incubating a test-bed in Singapore for experimentation, applied research and training in information and communication technologies (ICTs). The key activities of this PAN "Collaboratory" included developing and establishing a centralised e-commerce platform which allowed participating Asian research institutions to set up shop on an E-Mall to sell their intellectual products

online and accept credit card payments. As of to date, there are 27 merchant partners running their own shops on the PAN E-Mall selling products in five categories - publications, CDs, videos, arts and crafts, photographs - in both physical and digitised formats.

Twelfth WINISIS Course at CIRDAP

The twelfth training course on WINISIS (updated windows version of CDS/ISIS) was held in CIRDAP during 16-22 August 2004. Like the earlier courses, this course was designed for information personnel working in information centres/information & documentation units under various government departments/organisations, libraries, research institutions, GOs/NGOs and commercial organisations. A total of ten participants, including nine librarians/information personnel from SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC), UNESCO, WHO, CAMPE, Department of Public Libraries, BCS Administration Academy, International University of Business and Technology (IUBAT), Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Sonargaon Degree



Group photograph of the training participants.

College and the new librarian of CIRDAP took part in the training course.

The training course aimed to provide information personnel with an opportunity to develop an appreciation of the potential use of new information technology and to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to automate information-related activities.

The specific objectives of the course were to: develop the participants' ability to create computerised bibliographic database using WINISIS; promote computerised information dissemination services; and enhance co-operation and resource sharing among information personnel. Trainees were trained on extensive application of WINISIS including concepts of creation and handling of databases, data entry/editing, sorting/retrieval services, dissemination methods, resource sharing etc. A combination of lectures providing the theoretical orientation and practical sessions was maintained in the training course. At the end of the course, the participants had to prepare a sample database for project work. The participants were awarded certificates on the successful completion of the course.

✓ Collaborative Training Programme with PROMOTE

CIRDAP conducted a special collaborative training programme for PROMOTE - a European Commission funded project of the Ministry of Education of the Bangladesh Government, during 7-20 December 2004. CIRDAP, under an agreement with PROMOTE (Programme to Motivate, Train

and Employ female teachers in rural secondary schools) conducted a customised training course on Library Cataloguing and CDS/ISIS for 11 Assistant Librarians working in different Government Teachers Training Colleges (TTC) throughout Bangladesh. The participants were drawn from TTCs of Barishal, Chittagong, Comilla, Dhaka, Feni, Jessore, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur.

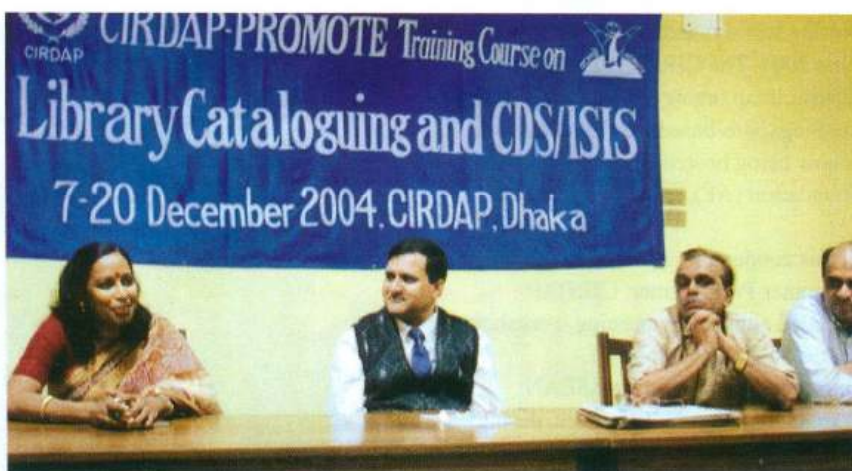
Former Director General of CIRDAP, Dr. Somporn Hangponpandh inaugurated the training course on 7 December 2004. He expressed satisfaction noting that CIRDAP has been continuing its special emphasis on enriching and strengthening library and information centres, the process that started in the early '90s during his tenure in the Centre. He was particularly happy to see the inclusion of the library software CDS/ISIS (WINISIS), developed by UNESCO, in the training programme.

Director General of CIRDAP, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Course Director and Head of Training and Information and Communication Divisions Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao and other professional staff of the Centre

were also present at the brief inaugural ceremony.

PROMOTE is funded by the European Commission through grant aid to the Government of Bangladesh. The programme's executing agency is the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) of the Ministry of Education. A Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary of Education, provides policy guidance and oversees overall programme implementation and co-ordination. The programme is implemented by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) based in Dhaka.

One of the objectives of PROMOTE is to start to renovate TTC libraries to support the Assistant Librarians in cataloguing libraries during 2005. In this context, the training course organised by CIRDAP aimed to provide the participants with the opportunity to develop an appreciation of the potential use of new information technology and to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to automate information-related activities, particularly on cataloguing.



View of the valedictory session

The specific objectives of the course were to:

1. develop the participants' ability to create computerised bibliographic database using CDS/ISIS;
2. develop computerised information dissemination services;
3. enhance co-operation and resource sharing among information personnel;
4. develop skills in proper library management including cataloguing, abstracting and other key operational components.

During the 13 day training course, participants were given extensive training on the following topics: Introduction to Computer; Overview of Operating System and Software installation; Concept of Database; Structure of WINISIS Application;

Field Definition Table (FDT); Worksheet Analysis; Formatting Language; Field Select Table (FST); Retrieval System; Data Import and Export; Common Communication Format; Information Superhighway; Analysis and Presentation and Project Work; Library Services; Collection/Resource Development; Cataloguing and Classification; Abstracting; Concepts of other types of library etc. Other library automation software packages like "Greenstone" (UNESCO/The Human Info/University of Waikato, NZ) and "Advanced Library Management" (CIRDAP) were also demonstrated.

A combination of lectures providing theoretical orientation followed by practical sessions and hands-on demonstrations were used in the training course. Classroom lectures

were supplemented by multimedia presentations. Four resource persons from the Information and Communication Division of CIRDAP took part in the training.

In the closing session of the training, on 20 December 2004, course completion certificates were awarded to the participants by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP. The brief and informal ceremony was also attended by Ms. Hosne Ara Ahmed, Training Co-ordinator, PROMOTE and Dr. Sudhakar Rao (CIRDAP). Being pleased with the success of this training course, Ms. Ahmed announced that there will be a similar training course for TTC information personnel in 2005, to be jointly organised by PROMOTE and CIRDAP.

ASIA-PACIFIC JOURNAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume XIV, Number 2, December 2004

Articles

Fruit Marketing Systems in Asia: Patterns, Problems and Policies

By Deepak M. Pokhrel and Gopal B. Thapa

Women's Empowerment under the Walvi System: A Study on Tribal Women in South Gikarat

By P C Sikligar

Linking Entrepreneurial Development and Natural Resources Management: An Indian Experience

By Chukka Kondaiah

Promotion of Farm Forestry in Laos Enhances Creation of Individual Land Property

By Dietrich Darr and Holm Uibrig

Initiation of Seawater Irrigation Co-Management for Marine Shrimp Farming in Thailand

By Pornpimon Chuaduangpui and Ganesh P. Shivakoti

Practitioners' Papers

Community Participation in Land Reclamation Project: A Case Study

By C.S. Singhal

Sustainable Development Needs and Options for Tripura (India)

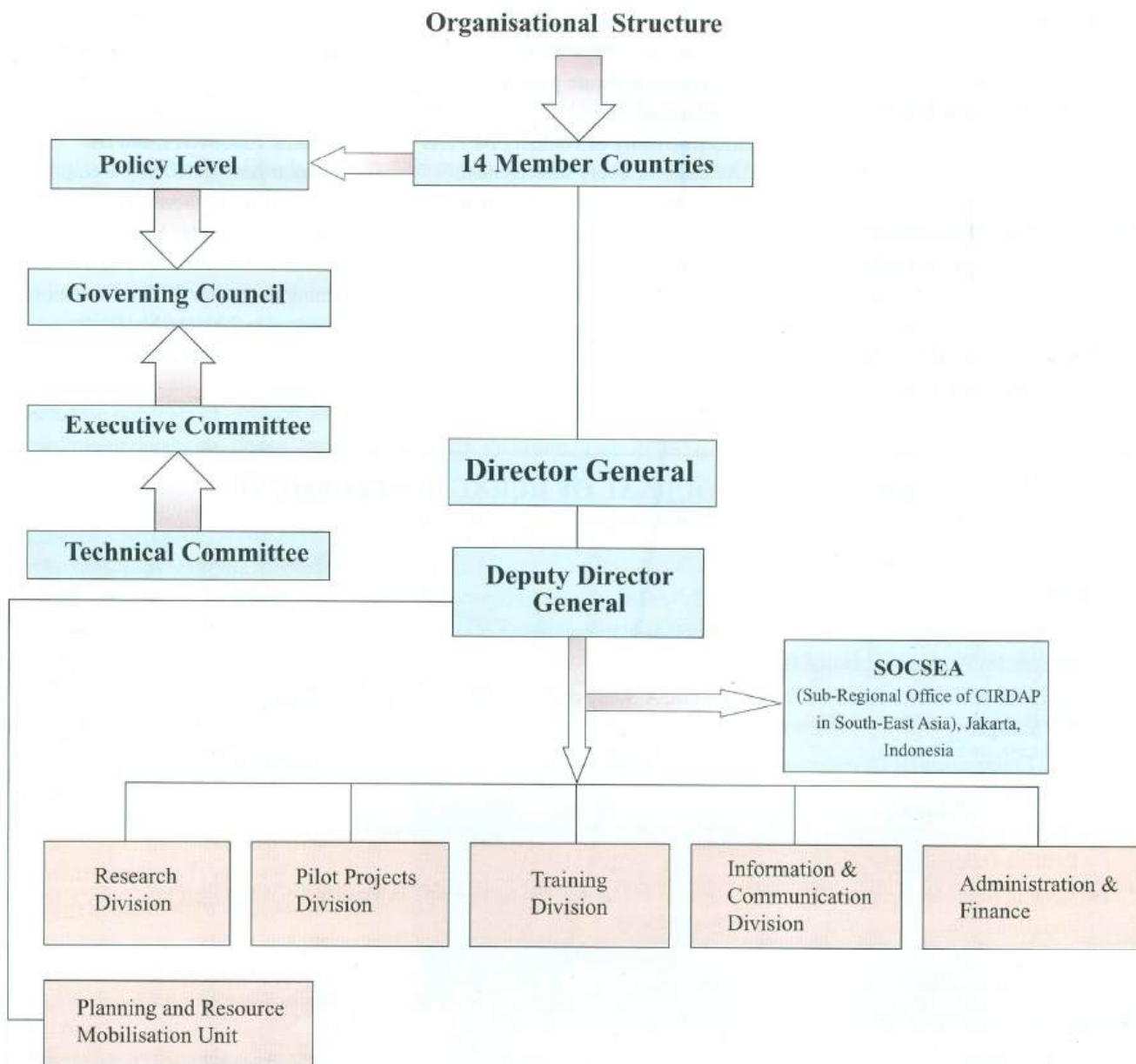
By Shashi Shekhar

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Administration and Finance

Organisational Structure

The Centre is responsible to its member countries for its programme of work, which is carried out within the policy guidelines framed from time to time by the member states through the following organisational structure:



Governing Council

The Governing Council (GC) is the highest policy-making body in the Centre's organisational structure and consists of the Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Agriculture in the member states. Meeting once every two years, the GC formulates policies, provides directions to the Centre and provides the biennial programme of work, budget and future plans.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC), a recommendatory body, comprises the Secretaries/ Permanent Secretaries/Secretaries General of the contact ministries. Its main functions are to: review the activities of the Centre, lay down general standards and guidelines for the management, give guidance to the Director General of CIRDAP and make recommendations to the GC. Previously, it used to meet once a year. Now, according to the decision of GC-14 Meeting, EC meeting is held once every two years back to back with GC meeting.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee (TC) is composed of the heads of all the CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs); the Director general of FAO or his representative; a representative of a non-member State (which has contributed financially to the Centre); a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (ESCAP); an expert of outstanding professional experience on IRD, and the Director General of CIRDAP. An advisory body, which meets annually, the TC provides professional inputs, reviews the technical aspects of the programmes and the budget of the Centre.

Secretariat

A full-time Director General, elected by the GC for a four-year term, is the chief executive of the organisation. He directs the work of the Centre in consonance with the policy and decisions adopted by the Governing Council under the guidance of the Executive Committee. He is assisted by a Deputy Director General (DDG) and a number of professional staff in the Centre's five divisions of Research, Pilot Projects, Training, Information and Communication, Administration and Finance, and a recently created Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit.

In accordance with a decision of the Governing Council, the first Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP has been established in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 February 1997 to assist national action and promote sub-regional co-operation relating to IRD. The Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP for South-East Asia (SOCSEA) is supposed to help increase CIRDAP membership, its resources and facilitate conduct of training, research and pilot projects relevant to the sub-region.

CIRDAP's core group of professional staff taken from the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) has expertise on various fields/disciplines relating to rural development. The professional staff members are assisted by locally recruited technical and support staff. The Centre also draws international experts and the professional expertise available in the CLIs and other professional institutions in the CMCs in implementing its programmes.



Group photograph of EC-24.

Finance

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

In the year 2004, the CMC contributions amounted to US\$565,242 which includes CMC Contributions Receivables for the year 2004 amounting to US\$128,591 not received till the end of the year. Financial support for new and on-going projects amounted to US\$479,969. CIRDAP provided US\$38,500 out of its Special Reserve Fund for programme activities.

Audit of the Accounts

The final accounts of the Centre for the 2002-2003 biennium were audited by Mr. H.R. Biswal, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, from 1 June to 21 June 2004. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained satisfactorily.

The Audit of the Interim Accounts for the year 2004 will be conducted by the auditor from Indonesia in April 2005.

The Financial Statements for the 2002-2003 biennium and the provisional Interim Accounts for the year 2004 are summarised in the following table:

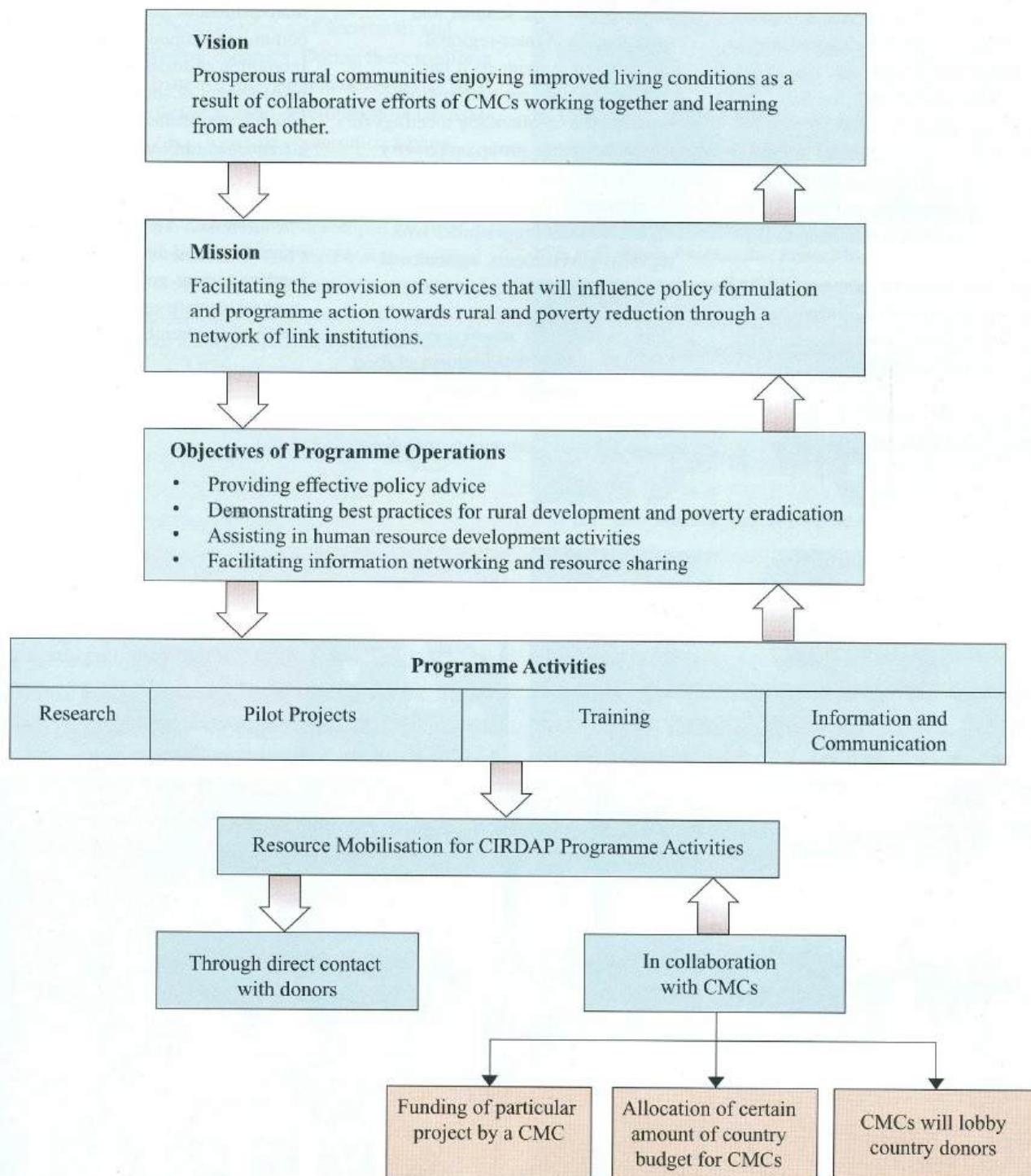
Financial Statement

2002-2003 Biennium and the year 2004 of the 2004-2005 Biennium

Figure in US\$

| Head of Accounts | Twelfth Biennium 2002-2003 (Actual) | | | 2004 (Provisional Interim Accounts) | | |
|--|--|---------------|-----------|--|---------------|-----------|
| | General Fund | Trust Fund | Total | General Fund | Trust Fund | Total |
| Income | | | | | | |
| - Member Country Contributions | 926,183 | - | 926,183 | 565,242 | - | 565,242 |
| - Donor's Contributions: IFAD, India, FAO, UNOPS, UNDP, Commonwealth Sect., CIROAP, BIRD, UNESCO, IIBB, CWISE, JICA, NIRD and other donor countries/agencies | - | 390,883 | 390,883 | - | 479,969 | 479,969 |
| - Miscellaneous Income (G. Fund) | 69,693 | - | 69,693 | 32,000 | - | 32,000 |
| - Special Reserve Fund for Programmes | - | 8,000 | 8,000 | - | 38,500 | 38,500 |
| Total Income | 995,876 | 398,883 | 1,394,759 | 597,242 | 518,469 | 1,115,711 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | |
| - Administrative Expenditure | 899,883 | - | 899,883 | 469,973 | - | 469,973 |
| Project Expenditure: | | | | | | |
| - Research Projects | - | 32,851 | 32,851 | - | 14,169 | 14,169 |
| - Pilot Projects | - | 5,416 | 5,416 | - | 126,187 | 126,187 |
| - Training Projects | - | 135,079 | 135,079 | - | 143,143 | 143,143 |
| - Information & Communication Proj. | - | 13,139 | 13,139 | - | 19,235 | 19,235 |
| - Others from D.R.F | - | 949 | 949 | - | 26,785 | 26,785 |
| Total Expenditure | 899,883 | 187,434 | 1,087,317 | 469,973 | 329,519 | 799,492 |

Framework for Programme Operations of CIRDAP



Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP (SOCSEA)

In accordance with the decision of the Governing Council during its 10th meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 7-8 December 1995, the Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP (SOCSEA) was established in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 February 1997 to assist national action and promote sub-regional co-operation relating to IRD.

SOCSEA is to help increase CIRDAP membership and its resources, to conduct training, research and pilot projects relevant to the sub-region.

Between 1997 and 2004, about 37 projects have been completed in

training, research, seminar and workshops and inter-regional information exchanges. It has established linkages with regional organisation by attending meetings of ASEAN experts' group on poverty eradication, Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) etc. and organised joint programmes with regional governments, agricultural universities etc.

Important subject areas covered are population data, development of food sector as a woman's business endeavour, production of incense sticks for Bali Community members,

management of goat breeding, community empowerment through promotion of small industry and management of small business etc., which have resulted in entrepreneurial advancement of local communities.

It has taken measures for co-operation with AIDB-Japan programme and discussion for funding various proposals, apart from discussions with relevant quarters for new country membership of CIRDAP.



Participants are seen at a training session in Jakarta.

Dr. Paudyal Calls on Dignitaries

Since his joining the Centre in July 2004, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal called on several dignitaries in Bangladesh and other CIRDAP member countries, and Secretaries and Ambassadors of different countries. During these meetings he briefed the dignitaries of his vision to develop CIRDAP as a Centre of Excellence in rural development in the Asia-Pacific region, since it is a unique organisation having access to rural development institutions in each of the fourteen CIRDAP member countries. It also has three-level policy making bodies, which can be developed for rural development policy monitoring and review at the regional level. Similarly, in order to mobilise resources and expand the political support, CIRDAP should make efforts to establish institutional linkage with other regional bodies like SAARC and ASEAN. All dignitaries welcomed the idea and vision of the new Director General and expressed all possible support.



With H.E. Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister, Bangladesh



With H.E. Sher Bahadur Deuba, the then Prime Minister, Nepal



With H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for LGRD & C, Bangladesh



With H.E. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister for RD, India



With H.E. Rene C. Villa, Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, Philippines



With H.E. Anura K. Disanayake, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation, Sri Lanka

Silver Jubilee Publications

On the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebrations, CIRDAP brought out some commemorative publications in July 2004.

25 Years of CIRDAP

A compendium of events and the genesis of growth of the Centre with the details - information, facts and figures, the book includes a panoramic coverage of milestones during the last 24 years of the Centre's existence, along with some articles on CIRDAP and the general field of rural development.

Rural Development Policies and Strategies

This is an effort by CIRDAP to present the poverty alleviation strategies and programmes of CIRDAP member countries at one place.

The publication is a compilation of rural development policies and strategies of most of the CIRDAP member countries written from their own perspective. It includes country studies that provide a comprehensive review of their efforts in rural development and poverty alleviation along with an overview. Also, Country Profiles based on data available from various sources have been included.

The papers are intended to be a rich addition to poverty-related research and is hoped to contribute to the awareness and understanding of poverty, and designing and customising suitable solution to poverty alleviation.

Highlights of CIRDAP Projects (1996-2003)

This volume of Highlights of CIRDAP Projects is the sixth in this series, which started in 1987. It covers details on projects that were implemented and completed during 1996 to 2003.

Detailed information on 99 projects is given in this volume, of which 24 are Research Projects, 10 Pilot Projects, 55 Training Projects and 10 Information and Communication Projects. A list of all the projects initiated by the Centre since its inception is also given as appendix.

CIRDAP Staff Profile (1979-2004)

Over the last 25 years, a number of professionals, consultants and staff have joined CIRDAP from across the member countries and beyond. All of them put their hard work for the Centre to drive it forward. A compilation of names and profiles of all professional staff of the Centre, past and present, since its inception, has been presented in this booklet.



Directorial and Professional Staff



Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Nepal
[Master's in Social Planning, University College of Swansea, U.K; Ph.D. in Local Level Planning, Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands]
Director General

With the expertise on local governance and decentralisation, Dr. Paudyal has extensive research experience on rural development issues across the Asia-Pacific region. He worked as Executive Director of Rural Self-Reliance Development Centre (1999-2004), Nepal. A Consulting Specialist, Dr. Paudyal served several national and international organisations in Nepal. He was also a professional staff-member of CIRDAP from 1986 to 1995. He has contributed a lot in the policy-making process of Nepal as a member of the High Level Decentralisation Co-ordination Committee (1997) with the Chair of the Prime Minister of Nepal, and as a Member-Secretary of the High Level Committee to Strengthen Local Bodies (2003) constituted under the Chair of Minister of Local Development. Several papers and articles have been published to his credit, in both Nepali and English, in leading national and international newspapers and journals. Dr. Paudyal has assumed the position of the Director General of CIRDAP from 6 July 2004.



Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, India
[Ph.D. in Economics, India]
Director (Training Division)

A well-known academic, Dr. Rao specialised in the fields of development policy, poverty alleviation, employment generation in the non-farm sector, good governance and partnership building, and backward area development. He participated in the activities of several national and international organisations as a researcher and a resource person. He was short-term UN Consultant for UCB in Kampala; Visiting Faculty of Development Economics, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok; Visiting Fellow at ILGS, University of Birmingham; National Resource Person for poverty alleviation training in Asia and the Pacific (IFAD-assisted projects co-ordinated by AARDO in

India) and Expert Committee Member of some ministries (HRD, S&T etc.) in India. He worked as a faculty member at the National Institute for Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET), Hyderabad, India. Dr. Rao has organised more than 30 international training programmes, and directed a number of research studies. He also authored/coauthored many books and papers. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked as Director at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India. Dr. Rao has joined CIRDAP in January 2002.



Mrs. Sompit Punyaratabandhu, Thailand
[M.S. in Economics, Kasetsart University]
Director (Pilot Projects Division)

Mrs. Sompit worked as senior economist for the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Bangkok. She has 21 years of experience in agricultural project monitoring and evaluation such as baseline study, performance monitoring, mid-term evaluation and ex-post evaluation. In doing so, she had to evaluate project background, design project evaluation, collect data by using triangulation, and analyse them. In addition, she had participated in many international and national trainings, seminars, workshops, conferences and study visits in Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Philippines, USA, etc. Mrs. Sompit has joined CIRDAP in October 2004.



Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Philippines
[M.A. in Community Development, University of The Philippines]
Programme Officer (Research Division)

Ms. Tuzon has 16 years of experience in the Department of Agrarian Reform in the Philippines as Agrarian Reform Programme Officer. With a background in Community Development and Development Education, she worked as a Senior Training Officer during the first phase of implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme. Ms. Tuzon has been involved in the monitoring and evaluation of Land Tenure Improvement programme; assisted in work and financial planning tasks; led the various secretariats and other committees on

development activities at both provincial and regional levels. She has also been involved in irrigators' organisation under National Irrigation Administration in 1987. Ms. Tuzon has participated in various relevant development trainings, conferences and workshops; and was also a pastoral worker in community development of farmers, fisher folks, women and youth prior to her tenure in DAR. She finished the course work in Doctor of Public Administration at the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of The Philippines. She was an Instructor in Sociology and Economics in Mount Carmel College. Ms. Tuzon has joined CIRDAP in July 2004.



Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Pakistan
[M.A. in Economics, University of Sindh]
Programme Officer (Training Division)

Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh is an academician and trainer having 14 years of working experience at the Akhter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration as a faculty member. With a background in Development Economics, he has organised a number of training courses, seminars workshops on the various subjects like project planning and management, participatory methods and techniques, community participation, micro-entrepreneurship, role of NGOs/CSOs, etc. Mr. Mazhar Ali has also undertaken few research studies on the topics of socio-economic development, including the AARDO research project on "Provision of Micro-Credit and Enhancement of Local Savings for Poverty Alleviation". Prior to his tenure in NCRD, he worked in Pakistan Government's special development programme "Peoples Works Programme" as Project Director. Mr. Mazhar Ali has joined CIRDAP in July 2004.



Ms. San San Hla, Myanmar
[M. Sc. in Agronomy, North Dakota State University, USA]
Programme Officer (Pilot Projects Div.)

As an agronomist, Ms. San San Hla has served Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise for about one year till September 2004. She worked as Action Research Fellow for one of CIRDAP's pilot projects from 2000 to 2003. She was with the Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's Office as an Administrative Officer from 1993 to

2000. She worked as a Cropping System Research Fellow from 1991 to 1993 after her study abroad from 1988 to 1991. She has nine years of experience as Research Fellow in the field of Crop Production and Crop Breeding specialising in cotton and jute when she was with the Agricultural Research Institute in Myanmar from 1980 to 1988. Ms. San San Hla has joined CIRDAP in October 2004.



Dr. M.A. Momin, Bangladesh
[M.Sc., Kiev State University, Ukraine;
Ph.D., M.S. University of Baroda, India]
Special Officer (PRMU)

A development economist, Dr. Momin has authored a number of books and research articles on poverty and rural development. He has worked as a consultant with ADB, SDC, European Commission, the Planning Commission and several ministries of the Government of Bangladesh. He also worked with the World Food Programme of the United Nations as an Evaluation Officer. His areas of specialisation are Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Micro-credit. At CIRDAP, Dr. Momin briefly worked as Administrative Officer, and also served as Programme Officer of Pilot Projects Division from October 1999 to June 2004. Dr. Momin has joined CIRDAP in January 1981.



U Than Htay, Myanmar
[B. Econ. in Economic Planning, Yangon University of Economics; Diploma of Integrated Rural Dev. Planning, Israel]
Programme Officer

U. T. Htay is a development planner. He has experience of over twenty years of services in the field of rural development planning. His areas of expertise include formulation, monitoring and evaluation of specific development projects in rural areas, and conducting a series of rural micro-economic surveys. He has also experience in international relations, programming and analysing agricultural statistics in Myanmar. Before joining the Centre, he worked as Deputy Director at the Department of Agricultural Planning in Myanmar, Link Institution of CIRDAP. In addition, he was also a National Project Director of "Agriculture Sector Review Project", which was jointly executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar and FAO with the financial assistance of UNDP and ADB. Mr. Than Htay has joined CIRDAP in February 2004.



Mr. Devi P. Mazumder, Bangladesh
[B.A. (Hons.), M.A. in Economics,
Chittagong University; Post-graduate
Diploma in Journalism, London School of
Journalism, UK]
Administrative Officer

Now in Administration, his expertise is on development-support communication, information and participatory development. Briefly worked as a consultant, UNDP, trainer of UNOPS, and a training specialist at INFEP and NMIDP at national level. He worked as a project staff in a Danish research project on pauperisation of women in Bangladesh; then in the research projects of CIRDAP since 1980 prior to his formal joining in September 1982. At CIRDAP, Mr. Mazumder substantially worked in Information and Communication, and Training Division. As a faculty member and a knowledge worker, he extensively contributed towards development of training materials, especially in the areas of environment, self-employment and income generation, and participatory community development approaches for poverty reduction. He is in the present position since September 2000.



Mr. Hanif Mahammed, Bangladesh
[B.Com. (Hons.), M. Com. in Accounting,
Dhaka University]
Finance Officer

He worked in the finance divisions of a number of leading international and national organisations. Prior to joining the Centre, he served CARE, a leading international NGO, as Finance Officer at its Bangladesh Headquarters, and worked as Station Manager-Finance and Accounts in GSS (Gono Sahajjyo Sangstha), a leading national NGO, for a couple of years. Mr. Hanif has joined CIRDAP in April 2000.



Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Bangladesh
[Master's in Statistics, Dhaka University]
Programme Associate

Mr. Rahman gained wide experience in the field of sustainable development and environment and related issues, with his active involvement in the multi-disciplinary research/action research projects of CIRDAP. An expert-trainer of participatory development programmes, and a resource person in a number of seminars/workshops, Mr. Rahman is trained in statistical methods; community nutrition; research methodology and management of rural development projects; project design, monitoring and evaluation; poverty measurement and analysis; social accounting matrix; general algebraic modelling system; computerised information system; spreadsheet analysis using Lotus 1-2-3; and programming on Cobol and Foxpro. He has authored/coauthored a number of research articles and publications of the Centre. Mr. Rahman has joined CIRDAP in May 1986.



Mr. David Hilton, Bangladesh
[B.S.S. (Hons.), M.S.S. in Govt. &
Politics, Jahangirnagar University,
Bangladesh; M.S. in Economic
Development, Eastern University, USA]
Pilot Projects Associate

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he served as Training Officer for two years and later Research and Evaluation Officer for three years in World Vision of Bangladesh (an international NGO). Worked as an Intern Consultant in two non-profit organisations, viz. Olde Kensington Redevelopment Corporation and St. Simeon's Community Centre, Philadelphia, USA, and assisted in developing their strategic plan, funding strategy, organisational development etc. His areas of expertise include project feasibility, baseline survey, management, participatory monitoring and evaluation. Experienced as facilitator in Participatory Project Cycle Management and PRA exercises both at home and abroad. He also participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. Mr. David has joined CIRDAP in March 1998.



Mr. Safiul Azam, Bangladesh

[B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. in Statistics,
Chittagong University]

Assistant Protocol Officer

He has a good experience in organising travel and tour, related to international seminar, workshop, conference etc. To accomplish his protocol duties, he has to get in touch with the high-ranking officials and dignitaries at home and abroad. Mr. Azam has to arrange travel facilities for the CIRDAP staff as well as CMC dignitaries. He also has to contact the diplomatic missions in Dhaka for passports, visas and other travel documents for the CIRDAP delegates coming from abroad. Mr. Azam has joined CIRDAP in March 1991.



Ms. Zeenat Ahmed, Bangladesh

[B.S.S. (Hons), M.S.S. in Economics,
Dhaka University]

Assistant Information and
Communication Officer

She has experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and information management. Ms. Zeenat is also trained in economic modelling, growth and poverty issues. She was a Research Associate at the Research Division for five years and was particularly involved with the IDRC-funded 'Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty' project. At CIRDAP, she also served as Training Associate. Since April 2000, she has been serving as Assistant Information and Communication Officer. Prior to joining the Centre, she briefly worked in Independent University of Bangladesh. Ms. Zeenat has joined CIRDAP in August 1994.



Mr. Nathan Sarker, Bangladesh

[Master in Computer Application,
UNIC, Dhaka]

Computer Programmer

He has developed his expertise on database management, website, e-commerce and office automation. As an expert, he has been actively involved in national and international computer training programmes at home and abroad. Particularly Mr. Sarker has conducted several UN programmes as a resource person. He has also been trained in

Singapore on virtual conferencing and e-commerce. CIRDAP is a content partner of Pan Asia Networking and Mr. Sarker is the contact person. He worked as a part-time lecturer and external examiner of University of Dhaka. Mr. Sarker has joined CIRDAP in December 1997.



Mrs. Hasina Afroz, Bangladesh

[B.A. (Hons.), M.A. in Library and
Information Science, Dhaka University]

Librarian

Mrs. Afroz developed her career as a librarian in an International University in Australia. She worked for Victoria University, Australia as Reference Librarian and later as Library and Information Services Officer. She participated in several professional development programmes such as Finding Case law, Frontline Customer Service, Emergency Warden, Web CT, Frontpage and Endnote, Core Competency and Database training. She has expertise in using Online Public Access Catalogue (INNOPAC) and Databases, designing and updating library webpages and preparing bibliography. She has experience to conduct training session for library users. Mrs. Afroz has joined CIRDAP in April 2004.



Mr. S. M. Saifuddin, Bangladesh

[B.A (Hons), M.A in Mass Communication
and Journalism, Dhaka University; M.S. in
English Studies, National University]

Publication Assistant

With his primary background in the field of information management and journalism, Mr. Saifuddin developed his expertise on editing and page layout. He has edited several publications of CIRDAP. Equipped with knowledge on DTP software packages, he has good experience in printing and publishing line. As a Sub-editor, he worked in the English daily The Daily Star for about eight years. Mr. Saifuddin has joined CIRDAP in December 2000.

Other Staff-members

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Jahangir Selim | : | Photographer-cum-Artist |
| Mr. Siddiqur Rahman | : | Senior Secretary |
| Mr. Samir Kumar Roy | : | Senior Secretary |
| Mr. M.S. Patwary | : | Secretary |
| Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid | : | Secretary |
| Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan | : | Secretary |
| Mr. Shamsul Huda | : | Private Secretary |
| Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed | : | Finance Assistant |
| Mr. S. Sen Gupta | : | Property & Supply Assistant |
| Mr. M. Kabir Ahmed Siddique | : | Library Assistant |
| Mr. Qazi Abu Zafar Mohd. Tipu | : | Filing Assistant |
| Mr. Akramullah | : | Cashier |
| Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed | : | Computer Operator |
| Mr. Haripada Bhowmik | : | Typist |
| Mr. Mostafa Kamal | : | Typist |
| Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam | : | Clerk-Typist |
| Mr. Abu Taher | : | Driver |
| Mr. Abu Sohel Akhter | : | Driver |
| Mr. Mofizul Islam Sarkar | : | Driver |
| Md. Manzoor | : | Driver |
| Mr. Shimul Barua | : | Driver |
| Mr. Shankar Ch. Das | : | Technical Operator |
| Mr. Belayet Hossain(1) | : | Watchman |
| Mr. Ramjan Ali | : | Watchman |
| Mr. Dianat Khan | : | Watchman |
| Mr. Jahangir Alam | : | Bearer-Cook |
| Mr. Bishu Ch. Das | : | Janitor |
| Mr. Narayan Ch. Mondal | : | Janitor |
| Mr. Shibu K. Mullik | : | Janitor |
| Mr. Sujit Ch. Das | : | Janitor |
| Mr. Belayet Hossain (2) | : | Janitor |
| Mr. Delwar Hossain | : | Janitor |
| Ms. Rezia Begum | : | Messenger |
| Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed | : | Messenger |
| Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker | : | Messenger |
| Mr. Martin Does | : | Messenger |
| Mr. Abdur Rahman Mollah | : | Gardener |

Selected Socio-Economic

| | Afghanistan | Bangladesh | India | Indonesia | Iran | Lao PDR |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Capital | Kabul | Dhaka | Delhi | Jakarta | Theran | Vientiane |
| Currency | Afghani | Taka | Ind. Rupee | Rupiah | Iranian Rial | New Kip |
| Land Area (<i>th.sq.km</i>) | 652.1 | 144 | 3288 | 1905 | 1636 | 237 |
| Popul. (<i>mil</i>) 2004 | 24.93 | 137.48 | 1081.23 | 222.61 | 69.79 | 5.79 |
| Pop ⁿ density (<i>per sq. km</i>) 2003 | 44 | 1061 | 358 | 118 | 41 | 25 |
| Ann. pop ⁿ growth rate (%) 2003 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.08 | 2.3 |
| GNI per capita (\$) 2003 | - | 400 | 530 | 810 | 2000 | 320 |
| GDP growth rate (%) (2002-2003) | - | 3.5 | 6.5 | 2.8 | 6.5 | 2.6 |
| GDP share, 2003 | | | | | | |
| % Agriculture | 52.0 (2002) | 22 | 23 | 17 | 11 | 51 |
| % Industry | 24.1 (2002) | 27 | 26 | 44 | 37 | 23 |
| % Service | 23.9 (2002) | 52 | 52 | 40 | 53 | 26 |
| Rural Population (%) 2004 | 76 | 73 | 71 | 55 | 33 | 79 |
| RUDI Rank | - | 6 | 9 | 8 | - | 12 |
| 1999 Value | - | 26.135 | 39.055 | 30.285 | - | 51.917 |
| HDI Rank (2002) | - | 138 | 127 | 111 | 101 | 135 |
| Value (2002) | - | 0.509 | 0.595 | 0.692 | 0.732 | 0.534 |
| Labour-force (<i>mil</i>), 2000 | 11 | 69 | 451 | 100 | 20 | 3 |
| Female Labour-force (% of total force), 2000 | 36 | 42 | 32 | 41 | 27 | - |
| Pop ⁿ below poverty line (<i>nat.</i>) (%) 1989-2000 | - | 49.8 (2000) | 28.6 (1999-2000) | 27.1 (1999) - | - | 38.6 (1997-98) |
| Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above) 2002 | 36 ('99) | 41 | 61 | 88 | 77 | 66 |
| Life expectancy at birth (<i>yrs</i>) 2003 | 43 | 62 | 64 | 67 | 70 | 55 |
| Matern. Mortality ratio 2000 | 1900 | 380 | 540 | 230 | 76 | 650 |
| Female economic activity rate (%) 2002 | - | 66.4 | 42.4 | 56.0 | 30.0 | 74.5 |
| Infant mortal. rate (<i>th. Liv. brth</i>) 2002 | 165 | 68 | 66 | 40 | 34 | 93 |
| Pop ⁿ using improved water source (%) 2002 | 13 | 75 | 86 | 78 | 93 | 43 |
| Pop ⁿ using adequate sanitation (%) 2002 | 8 | 48 | 30 | 52 | 84 | 24 |

Source : UNDP : Human Development Report 2004; World Bank : World Development Indicators 2004, World Development Report 2005, and Little Data Book 2004 ; ADB : Key Indicators 2004; CIRDAP : Rural Development Report 1999 and CIRDAP Report 2003., UNICEF : The State of the World's Children 2005

Indicators of CIRDAP Member Countries

| Malaysia | Myanmar | Nepal | Pakistan | Philippines | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Vietnam |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Kuala Lumpur | Yangon | Kathmandu | Islamabad | Manila | Colombo | Bangkok | Hanoi |
| Ringgit | Kyat | Nep. Rupee | Pak. Rupee | Peso | SL. Rupee | Baht | New Dong |
| 330 | 677 | 147 | 796 | 300 | 66 | 513 | 332 |
| 25.49 | 50.10 | 28.80 | 167.32 | 81.41 | 19.22 | 63.76 | 82.48 |
| 75 | 75 | 172 | 193 | 273 | 297 | 121 | 250 |
| 1.8 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.3 |
| 3780 | - | 240 | 470 | 1080 | 930 | 2190 | 480 |
| 3.2 | - | 4.7 (01) | 3.3 | 2.5 | 4.3 | 6.1 | 6.1 |
| 9 | 57.2 ('01) | 40 | 23 | 14 | 20 | 9 | 23 |
| 49 | 10.5 ('01) | 21 | 23 | 32 | 26 | 41 | 39 |
| 42 | 32.4 ('01) | 39 | 53 | 53 | 54 | 50 | 38 |
| 40 | 70 | 84 | 66 | 38 | 76 | 69 | 74 |
| 1 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 12.498 | 15.863 | 46.264 | 40.176 | 20.888 | 27.403 | 23.721 | 23.781 |
| 59 | 132 | 140 | 142 | 83 | 96 | 76 | 112 |
| 0.793 | 0.551 | 0.504 | 0.497 | 0.753 | 0.740 | 0.768 | 0.691 |
| 10 | 25 | 11 | 52 | 32 | 8 | 37 | 40 |
| 38 | 43 | 41 | 29 | 38 | 37 | 46 | 49 |
| 15.5 (1989) | - | 42.0 (1995-96) | 32.6 (1998-99) | 36.8 (1997) | 25.0 (1995-96) | 13.1 (1992) | 50.9 (1993) |
| 89 | 85 | 44 | 44.0 (2001) | 93 | 92 | 93 | 92.7 (2001) |
| 73 | 57 | 60 | 61 | 70 | 73 | 69 | 69 |
| 110 | 360 | 740 | 500 | 200 | 92 | 44 | 130 |
| 48.9 | 65.8 | 56.8 | 36.3 | 49.9 | 43.3 | 73.0 | 73.5 |
| 8 (2000) | 88 | 72 | 85 | 30 | 20 | 21 | 34 |
| 95 | 80 | 84 | 90 | 85 | 78 | 85 | 73 |
| 98 (2000) | 73 | 27 | 54 | 73 | 91 | 99 | 41 |

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|--|
| AARDO | Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation | IRD | Integrated Rural Development |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank | IRRI | International Rice Research Institute |
| ANGOC | Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development | IT | Information Technology |
| APJORD | Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development | JICA | Japanese International Co-operation Agency |
| ASA | Association for Social Advancement | LAN | Local Area Network |
| ASEAN | Association for South-East Asian Nations | LDTA | Local Development Training Academy |
| BARD | Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development | M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| BIRD | Bankers Institute of Rural Development | MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| BRAC | Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee | MVRD | Model Villages in Rural Development |
| CARD | CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development | NAM | Non-Aligned Movement |
| CBOs | Community-Based Organisations | NAM - CSSTC | Non-Aligned Movement-Centre for South-South Technical Co-operation |
| CDD | CIRDAP Development Digest | NGOs | Non-Government Organisations |
| CDS/ ISIS | Computerised Documentation System/ Integrated Set of Information System | NIRD | National Institute of Rural Development |
| CIARPS | CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar | NISIET | National Institute for Small Industry Extension Training |
| CIPS | Community Information and Planning System | NMIDP | National Minor Irrigation Development Programme |
| CLIs | CIRDAP Link Institutions | PASViD | Participatory Approach to Sustainable Village Development |
| CMCs | CIRDAP Member Countries | PaViDIA | Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas in Zambia |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organisations | PCM | Project Cycle Management |
| CVDP | Comprehensive Village Development Programme | PDM | Project Design Matrix |
| CWESE | Commissionerate of Women Empowerment and Self-Employment | PME | Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation |
| DDG | Deputy Director General | PPD | Pilot Projects Division |
| DG | Director General | PRMU | Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit |
| DTP | Desk Top Publishing | PROMOTE | Programme to Motivate, Train and Employ female teachers in rural secondary schools |
| EC | Executive Committee | RD | Rural Development |
| ESCAP | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | RDA | Rural Development Academy |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization | RDCN | Rural Development Communication Network |
| GC | Governing Council | RDR | Rural Development Report |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product | RDTRI | Rural Development Training and Research Institute |
| GNI | Gross National Income | RUDI | Rural Urban Disparity Index |
| GO | Government Organisation | SAARC | South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation |
| HARTI | Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute | SAIC | SAARC Agricultural Information Centre |
| HDI | Human Development Index | SHG | Self-Help Group |
| ICD | Information and Communication Division | SOCSEA | Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia |
| IDRC | International Development Research Centre | TAG | Technical Advisory Group |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development | TC | Technical Committee |
| IGAs | Income-Generating Activities | TTCs | Teachers Training Colleges |
| IIBB | International Institute of Bengal Basin | UN | United Nations |
| INFEP | Integrated Non-Formal Education Programme | WHO | World Health Organisation |
| INGOs | International Non-Government Organisations | | |

Regional IRD Network

Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

| <i>Name of Countries</i> | <i>Link Institutions</i> | <i>Contact Ministries</i> |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| AFGHANISTAN | Foreign Relation Division Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul City | Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt Kabul City |
| BANGLADESH | Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Kotbari, Comilla | Rural Development and Co-operatives Division Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka |
| INDIA | National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) Rajanedranagar, Hyderabad | Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhavan New Delhi |
| INDONESIA | Community and Village Empowerment Ministry of Home Affairs, Jalan Raya Pasar Minggu, KM 19, Jakarta | Ministry of Home Affairs Medan Merdeka Utara 7, Jakarta |
| IRAN | Industries and Rural Development Department Rural Development Planning Office Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Tehran | Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture No. 8 - Ahmad Ghasirs Shahid Beheshti Avenue, Tehran |
| LAO PDR | National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services (NAFES), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Vientiane | Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Government of Lao PDR P.O. Box-811, Vientiane 0100 |
| MALAYSIA | Planning & International Affairs Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Wisma Tani, Jalan Sultan Salahuddin 50624 Kuala Lumpur | Ministry of Agriculture Jalan Sultan Salahuddin 50624 Kuala Lumpur |
| MYANMAR | Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Thiri Mingalar Lane, Off. Kaba Aye Pagoda Road Yankin P.O., Yangon | Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Thiri Mingalar Lane, Off. Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin P.O., Yangon, Myanmar |
| NEPAL | Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) P.O. Box - 11980, Jawalakhel Lalitpur | Ministry of Local Development Shree Mahal, Pulchowk Lalitpur, Kathmandu |
| PAKISTAN | Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD & MA), Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad | Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Hajvairy Plaza, Blue Area Islamabad |
| PHILIPPINES | Bureau of Land Reform Beneficiaries Development Department of Land Reform (DLR) 3/F Dept. of Land Reform Building Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City | Support Services Office, DLR Government of the Republic of the Philippines 4/F Department of Land Reform Building Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City |
| SRI LANKA | Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) 114 Wijerama Mawatha, P.O. Box 1522 Colombo | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation, Govijana Mandiraya, 80/5, Rajamalwatta Avenue, Battaramulla |
| THAILAND | National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200 | Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operatives Rajadamnern Avenue, Bangkok |
| VIETNAM | Department of Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2 Ngoc ha Street, Bach Thao, Hanoi | International Co-operation Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 2, Ngoc Ha Street, Hanoi |



Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP, Jakarta, Indonesia