

CIRDAP

Report 2005



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

CIRDAP

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, intergovernmental and autonomous 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 cooperation, 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/infrastructural 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 (eg. 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 cooperation. 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 intergovernmental 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.



CIRDAP Report *2005*



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for
Asia and the Pacific



Contents

2005 in Review: Director General's Report	3
Policy Body Meetings	9
In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar	17
CIRDAP Activities:	
- Research	21
- Pilot Projects	35
- Training	41
- Information and Communication	61
- Administration and Finance	65
Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP	70
Dr. Paudyal Calls on Dignitaries	71
CIRDAP Staff Profile	73

CIRDAP Report 2005

© CIRDAP 2006

Published by

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road

GPO Box 2883

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Tel : 955 8751, 956 4776, 7169 824-5

Fax : 880-2-956 2035

E-mail : dgcirdap@cidap.org, research@cirdap.org, ppd@cirdap.org, training@cirdap.org,
infocom@cirdap.org; admiristration@cirdap.org

Website : www.cirdap.org.sg

Cover Photograph : Mr. Monwar Ahmed, Bangladesh.

Design & Printing : ccats



2005 *in Review*

Director General's Report

Since the establishment of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in 1979, as a regional, inter-governmental and autonomous organisation at the initiative of FAO/UN, there have been profound changes in development strategies and policy environment at national,

regional and international levels. This year CIRDAP took several soul searching initiatives to meet the new challenges head-on.

During the 1970s, integrated rural development (IRD) was pursued as the dominant and popular concept of rural development of the region. Thereafter, due to paradigm shifts taking place in the overall national development, programmes of rural development came under scrutiny as a development strategy. Gradually not only for IRD losing its pre-eminence as a policy tool since 1980s and onwards, but also for intensification of the thrust on poverty reduction, especially through adoption of various participatory approaches, a new thinking on rural development (RD) strategy has been underway to meet the challenges arising out of the changes in the dynamics of the rural economy and society and the need for changes in the donor perceptions and programmes in order to deal with the implications for globalisation and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as endorsed in the UN Millennium Declaration.

At the level of policy, certain common factors have also emerged. Macro-economic stability and economic growth received priority along with targeted programmes for poverty alleviation (PA). As an issue, poverty alleviation remained a part of rural development and gradually occupied the central place in the development agenda. This issue as a top priority has been a common policy approach in all the countries. In each country, different ministries are engaged in it, and the involvement of the NGOs has also been an emerging trend. Notion of poverty is not confined to economic deprivation, social deprivation is also adequately echoed.

Considering the changing circumstances, during the year, CIRDAP started reviewing the past efforts, approaches and institutional framework of the Centre. Up to now, CIRDAP has implemented 289 projects of which 80 are research, 38 are pilot projects, 134 are training and 37 are information and communication projects programmes. It was found that the need to redefine CIRDAP's role in the changing environment of development was foreseen by its pioneers, and it is still relevant and valid but requires contextualisation with contemporary realities. Keeping all these aspects, a national seminar on 'New Strategic Framework' was organised on the occasion of its 26th Founding Anniversary on 6th July 2005, CIRDAP further revised and developed the strategic framework document based on the suggestions made to help CMCs approaches adjust to the changing context of the development realities of the globe.

During the year, CIRDAP intensified its efforts to fine-tune its vision to more appropriate policies, planning and project development through a pioneering 'Regional Policy Dialogue on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation' on 1st October 2005. This topic was also taken up as an agenda during the discussions in the meetings of the policy bodies, the Executive Committee (EC-25) and the Governing Council (GC-15), in Dhaka on 29-30 September 2005 and 2-5 October 2005 respectively.

The EC 25 and GC 15 approved a new strategic policy of CIRDAP which proposed that the policy bodies of CIRDAP such as the Technical Committee (TC), the Executive Committee (EC) and the Governing Council (GC) be developed as regional forums for policy dialogue, exchanging experiences and promoting regional cooperation for rural development and poverty alleviation across the region. Similarly CIRDAP will be developed as a vehicle for South-South Cooperation and, hence, institutional linkages with other regional bodies such as SAARC, ASEAN, NAM etc. will be built.

In most of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, RD and PA have remained at the top of the agenda. In fact, the main consumer of the annual budget as well as the main destination of international assistance continued to be in this sector. The CIRDAP Rural Development Report 2005 brings out the fact that CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) account for 32 per cent of the world population and 40 per cent of the total population of developing countries. Of the rural population, CMCs account for 41.8 per cent of the World's total and 46.4 per cent of the total population of the developing countries. Per capita average GDP in CMCs is only 13 per cent of the average per capita of global GDP and 53 per cent of the average per capita GDP in developing countries. Obviously, the CMCs are in a disadvantageous position in relation to both income and population size.

The report also points out that the Asia-Pacific region as a whole made a remarkable progress in alleviation of poverty where incidences of poverty dropped from 34.3 per cent in 1990 to 25.6 per cent in 1998, meaning about 9 percentage point decline in poverty incidence during the eight-year period. The achievement of one of the targets of MDGs, i.e. halving poverty by 2015, would be possible if the figure would have been dropped to around 17 per cent or by about 9 percentage point during the period of 17 years from 1998 to 2015. However, the Asia-Pacific region as a whole may be able to achieve the target although specific sub-regions and individual countries may not be able to do so.

The 13th SAARC summit held in Dhaka in the reported year also recognised poverty as the greatest challenge for the region and declared 2006-2015 as the SAARC Decade for Poverty Alleviation. The summit agreed on a comprehensive strategy with 12 SAARC Development Goals (SDGs). It decided to focus on formulation and implementation of concrete regional programmes and projects and forging partnerships among all stakeholders. As the CIRDAP Contact Ministries (CCMs) are the main policy making and implementing bodies and CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) are the national-level institutions to provide professional support for RD and PA programme activities in each CMC of SAARC region, CIRDAP made efforts to identify the possible areas and mechanism for collaboration with SAARC to achieve SDGs.

However many things remain to be done to alleviate poverty, such as improving distribution of income, achieving human development and raising productivity to improve economic and social well-being, especially of the rural poor in many of the CMCs. It called for judicious policy intervention for attending faster, sustainable and equitable economic and social development. CIRDAP pursues rural development (means) for poverty alleviation (ends) through people's participation (strategy). To facilitate this, there are a number of core issues to be dealt with properly:

- **Mainstreaming rural development issue :** There is a need for articulating the rural development policies in the changing context as well as creating an enabling environment and capacity building for local governance to regulate, coordinate and sustain the development process at local level.
- **Widening gap :** The present state of development in the countries of Asia-Pacific region reflects the uneven socio-economic impact across countries as well as between the rural and urban areas. Hence here is a need to protect the poor and the vulnerable groups.

- **Socio-cultural concern :** There are increasing evidences across the countries that ethnic, tribal and indigenous communities and vulnerable groups are being marginalised in the development process. To avoid this negative trend it may be required to go beyond the economic perspective to take explicit account of the socio-cultural concerns and focus more on poverty at the grassroots level.
- **Strengthening government institutions:** Due to the failure of the state to address poverty and human development, several I/NGOs, microcredit institutions and civil society emerged during the past decades with economic and social agenda, mainly with donors support. Indeed, they have done a good job to generate economic opportunities at the micro-level and bring out several socio-economic issues to the forefront. But there is a need to sequence them along with the respective government agencies to play a complementing role. This may require developing a coordinating mechanism at local, national and donor levels to synergise the achievements made by them.
- **Policy development:** The rural development and poverty alleviation programmes are implemented by several ministries of the government, NGOs, civil societies and private sectors. But it is difficult to understand holistically the achievements and issues of multi-sectoral policies. For this CIRDAP is developing a comprehensive mechanism for knowledge generation, policy coordination and political support at national and regional levels.

Building Linkages

During the year, the matters of mutual concern have been discussed with the dignitaries in Bangladesh and other CMCs, ministers and secretaries of Contact Ministries, and heads of Link Institutions in CMCs, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Chief Executives of international organisations. The main focus of the discussions was basically on greater regional cooperation.

One of the important elements of RD and PA is political commitment and support. In order to expand the level of political support, CIRDAP has also made some efforts in coalition building with other regional organisations like SAARC, ASEAN and ECO. There are also lessons to be learnt, even from other Asian countries such as China, Korea, and other East Asian countries that have been successful in increasing their productivity levels and reducing the level of poverty dramatically. CIRDAP has been pursuing these countries to become members of CIRDAP and exchange their successful experiences with the CMCs.

MoU Signed with NAM-CSSTC

A cooperation agreement in the form of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) and



MoU signing ceremony between NAM-CSSTC and CIRDAP

CIRDAP was signed on 14 March 2005, at the office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia. The MoU was signed by Mr. Sudjandnan Parnohadiningrat, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, as the supervisor/Adviser of NAM-CSSTC and myself as the Director General, CIRDAP.

Special Training Grant from Government of India

The Government of India has provided an amount of US\$212,400 to organise five regional training programmes (three in India and one each in Indonesia and Vietnam). These programmes were organised as an initiative to give support to the capacity building efforts of Asia region through knowledge dissemination, sharing of expertise/experience of India with member countries for networking, future collaboration in RD efforts of member countries and to create better institutional and governance linkage in the region in order to fulfil the mandate for poverty reduction and enhanced regional cooperation.

A Comprehensive Collaboration Plan from Islamic Republic of Iran

The Rural Development Planning Office of the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Industries and Rural Development of Iran has prepared a comprehensive cooperation plan to be carried out in collaboration with CIRDAP. This comprise 17 projects covering different areas of RD. CIRDAP has taken initiative to incorporate all these proposals in the programme of work of CIRDAP for 2006-2007 biennium.

ICARRD

FAOs International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) is to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in March 2006. The CIRDAP 21st Technical Committee Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2005 decided that CIRDAP in collaboration with CLIs, should prepare and present a paper on 'Comprehensive Asian Perspective on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation' at this important global event. This matter is being vigorously pursued.

Programme of Action

CIRDAP focuses its activities on its priority areas of concerns, namely agrarian development; institutional and infrastructural development; resource development including human resources; and employment. Six thematic areas have been identified to constitute the programme strategies during 2002-2007. These are: poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector (e.g. health, education and nutrition) development; employment generation through micro-credit support, infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; GO-NGO collaboration; gender issues; governance issues; and environmental concerns in sustainable rural development. The programme activities of CIRDAP have been undertaken by four divisions, i.e. Research, Pilot Projects, Training, and Information and Communication. Some programme activities are mentioned below:

A comprehensive knowledge generation and review mechanism (CKGRM)

A new role for CIRDAP has been devised at the 'Regional Policy Dialogue on RD and PA, and at the EC-25 and GC-15 meetings for development of a CKGRM. The targets of MDGs are time-bound with disaggregated activities and need to be implemented by different line ministries and their affiliated agencies and departments, NGO and other private sector stakeholders. These involve rigorous monitoring and evaluation through collection, collation and analysis of data for tracking progress at individual, country and regional level.

Under the programme to be implemented for this purpose in each CMC, there will be a national coordination committee (NCC) consisting of the representations of all line ministries involved in RD implementation process, including those from NGOs, civil societies, academia, research

organisations and private stakeholders. This will be the apex body for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions performed by national RD focal point which will be CIRDAP link institution in each CMC. The national focal point will prepare an annual review report on RD and PA processes in the CMCs, based on which a synthesised RD report will be prepared by CIRDAP once in every two years during EC and GC meetings at a regional dialogue. These regional dialogues will ensure effective exchange of views, ideas, experiences and also generate new knowledge. Most importantly it will also assure political commitment of the CMCs towards CIRDAP's effort on regional cooperation.

Strengthening capacities of IFAD and its partners

CIRDAP and the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reforms (ANGOC) are implementing the above project jointly for 2006-2007. The project aims at increasing the capacity of IFAD and its partners to design and implement community-based organisations (CBOs). Countries covered are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia and Philippines.

Creating a critical mass of RD functionaries

So far CIRDAP has trained approximately 5000 mid-level RD functionaries, administrators, project managers, trainers and RD policy planners in the Asia and the Pacific region. During the year CIRDAP has carried out two training-cum-exposure visits on micro-finance in Bangladesh, three in-country training programmes in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, five regional programmes in India, Indonesia and Vietnam, and two international programmes in Indonesia and Bangladesh. The major collaborative institutions were NIRD, India; YASHADA, Pune, India; BIRD, India; MORD, India; NISIET, India; MORD, Vietnam; NAM-CSSTC, Indonesia; MHA, Indonesia; BARD, Bangladesh; Grameen Bank, Bangladesh; BRAC, Bangladesh; DAP, Myanmar; IFAD, Rome and HARTI, Sri Lanka.

Some of the regional international programmes conducted were:

- Geographical Information System (GIS) and IT Application for RD
- Poverty Focused Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, Methods, Approaches and Impact Assessment
- Targeted Policies, Programmes and Projects for Poverty Reduction in Asian Countries
- Capacity Building of Rural Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes
- Micro-Enterprise, Micro-Finance and Marketing of Rural Products.

Upgrading ICT framework

During the year Information and Communication Division's (ICD's) work revolved round upgrading the IT base, development of the website and providing service to high profiled EC and GC meetings in Dhaka and TC meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The publicity campaigns for these were effectively coordinated by the division.

The Aziz-ul Haq Memorial Library was declared opened by H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 29th September 2005. Also, to coincide with it CIRDAP organised a book exhibition in collaboration with CLIs.

The following were other important activities initiated by the library during the year:

- Under an agreement with the World Bank, library is now getting free access to the World Bank e-library, World Development Indicators (WDI) and global development finance online (GDF)
- CIRDAP becomes a member of UN Library Network in Bangladesh
- Newspaper articles on RD/PA from CMCs are now being collected and placed on the CIRDAP website

Annual Review and Planning in CIARPS

The CIRDAP in-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) was held in December 2005. During the deliberations, suggestions were made towards sharpening the focus of the Centre, measures towards accountability to the member countries, streamlining the system for better management, effective steps to be taken to improve organisation productivity and to instil an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism in CIRDAP.

The second phase of the CIARPS was held in BARD, the CIRDAP Link Institution in Bangladesh, where useful feedback was obtained.

In conclusion, I feel that with the renewed vision and strategy of CIRDAP, CMCs and donors have started to reconsider the potentialities of CIRDAP as a regional platform for dialogue for RD and PA policies and experiences. I wish to express my appreciation of the cooperation and support extended by the Governments of CIRDAP Member Countries, Contact Ministries and Link Institutions to enable me to carry out mandated functions of the organisation effectively. The interest taken by the Government of India, Indonesia and Iran in programme activities was particularly a source of great inspiration. I also wish to thank IFAD and JICA for their continued professional and technical linkages in making use of CIRDAP expertise for training rural functionaries overseas.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal
Director General

Policy Body Meetings



H.E. Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh
inaugurating the GC-15 Meeting on 2 October 2005

15th Governing Council Meeting

H.E. Begum Khaleda Zia, Honourable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-15) at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka on 2 October 2005.

The meeting was hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and was held on 2-3 October 2005. Representatives from all the 14 member countries of CIRDAP including ministers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan,

Philippines and observers from the Royal Government of Bhutan, ADB, Commonwealth Secretariat, FAO and experts from JICA and Scott-Wilson, UK attended the meeting.

Appreciating a new strategic framework developed by CIRDAP for adjusting its activities with contemporary realities, the Prime Minister, in her inaugural speech, noted that the GC-15 Meeting will deliberate on various aspects of this strategic framework and provide guidelines for strengthening CIRDAP to successfully face new challenges in the changed contexts.

The Inaugural function was also addressed by Mr. Progo Nurdjaman, Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia and Chairperson of GC-14, H.E. Justice (Retd.) Abdul Razak A. Thahim, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Pakistan, and Vice-Chairperson of GC-14, H. E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Bangladesh, and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. Several ministers of the Bangladesh Government, diplomats, senior government officials and eminent personalities of Bangladesh attended the function.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal gave a brief account of his review of CIRDAP activities and preparation of a strategic framework designed to contextualise CIRDAP functions and activities with the global changes. In this context he submitted several policy proposals prepared for the consideration of the GC.

Business Session

At the beginning of the business session, Bangladesh was unanimously elected as the Chair of the GC-15, for the period 2006-2007, as proposed by Pakistan and seconded by Sri Lanka. Philippines was elected as Vice-Chair as proposed by India and seconded by Nepal and Myanmar.

The Revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the thirteenth biennium (2004-2005) and the Proposed PWB for the Fourteenth Biennium (2006-2007) were placed and were approved by the

Council along with some observations. The Council also approved the report on the Audited Final Accounts of the Centre (2002-2003) and the Report of the Interim Accounts of the Centre for the year 2004 in accordance with the recommendations made by EC-25 in the matter.

Following are some of the major decisions of GC-15:

- It was decided that CIRDAP should make linkage with other regional organisations like SAARC, ASEAN, ECO etc. The DG, CIRDAP was authorised to take necessary steps to make such linkages.



H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan (C) conducting the business session as Chairperson. H.E. G.C.K. Maducno (L), Vice-Chairperson from Philippines, is also seen

- Given the upward movement in the training activities of CIRDAP, it was decided that a balance in all activities like research, pilot projects, etc. be maintained. GC-15 requested all the member countries for further support for training, pilot and research projects.



The delegates along with H.E. Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, at the inaugural function on 2 October 2005

- Regional cooperation bodies could be requested to associate themselves with CIRDAP especially as members of the Technical Committee.
- In response to CIRDAP's proposal it was decided that a Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanisms of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Processes in CMCs be developed to reflect on developing knowledge and database at CIRDAP.

Critical success factors underlying IRD efforts in the CMCs may be identified and disseminated by CIRDAP for replication.

- Director General, CIRDAP mentioned that CIRDAP has three policy bodies namely TC, EC and GC with distinct roles and functions to support conduct of the activities of the Centre smoothly. These policy bodies are mainly responsible for policy direction and monitoring of CIRDAP activities. However, there is scope for expansion of the role of CIRDAP policy bodies. Considering these, some expanded roles of TC, EC and GC were proposed and was subsequently approved by the GC-15.
- Regarding the agenda on redefining the role of CIRDAP Network, GC-15 approved the suggestions of EC-25 on:
 - Setting up a regional cooperation fund on a voluntary basis for expanding cooperation among member countries for experience sharing and human resource development.
 - Greater interaction between CIRDAP and FAO-collaboration in areas like rural institutional building, decentralisation policies and their impact on participation.
 - To study transparency in implementing the rural development programmes in the member countries.
- Regarding Resource mobilisation for CIRDAP from the member countries, the following decisions were made by GC-15:
 - On the recommendation of EC-25, GC-15 agreed to the proposition of generating resources through collaboration with SAARC under its poverty alleviation fund, and similar measures may be taken with other regional bodies like ASEAN.
 - GC-15 may approach the Government of India and other SAARC member countries to consider the project for strengthening institutions for poverty alleviation in CIRDAP member countries.
 - GC-15 may approach the Government of Japan to renew its earlier funding support to CIRDAP in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation.
 - GC-15 approved the recommendation of EC-25 to raise resources for CIRDAP through international and bilateral consultancies and organisations like FAO, IFAD, etc. could be approached to nominate CIRDAP as a consulting outfit.
- For promoting institutional linkages of CIRDAP with other regional and international bodies, GC-15 took the following decisions in accordance with EC-25's recommendations:
 - GC-15 approved signing of MoU with regional bodies like SAARC, ASEAN and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).
 - CIRDAP member countries, which are also member countries of ASEAN, viz. Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam will be requested to coordinate locally and link up CIRDAP with ASEAN.
 - CIRDAP should work in areas of its core competencies.
 - Member countries of ASEAN would also take up through their respective governments such pro-active efforts to help CIRDAP to enter into collaborative arrangement with ASEAN.
 - The Director General, CIRDAP is authorised to sign MOUs with other regional organisations with respect to activities relating to rural development and poverty alleviation.

Regarding the Centre's proposal for reorganisation of CIRDAP Headquarters and its Regional Centre, GC 15 took the following decisions as per the recommendations of EC-25:

- A sub-committee comprising selected CMCs be constituted to examine these aspects comprehensively and come up with recommendations within three/four months. Selected CMCs agreed to participate in the deliberations of the sub-committee through their embassies/high Commissions in Dhaka.
- It was decided that CMCs are to be requested to send a suitable official on secondment basis to fill up the vacant post of the Deputy Director General of CIRDAP.
- The GC-15 decided to waive the arrears payable to CIRDAP by Afghanistan for the period 1996-2000.
- The GC-15 had accepted the offer of the Government of the Philippines to host the EC-26 and GC-16 meetings in the Philippines, sometime in 2007.

25th Executive Committee Meeting

The Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-25) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 29-30 September 2005 hosted by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the meeting was attended by delegates from all of the 14 CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) which included some ministers and secretaries of rural development and related fields from the respective countries. Representatives of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Scott Wilson, UK, and the Royal Bhutanese Government also attended as observers.

The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Honourable Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of the Government of Bangladesh, on 29 September at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka; H.E. Mr. Ziaul Huq Zia, Minister of State for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh; H.E. Mr. Warmas Hasan Saputra, Ambassador of Indonesia to Bangladesh and Chairperson of the Twenty-fourth Executive Committee (EC-24); Mr. Md. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, MLGRD, Government of Bangladesh, and Dr. Durga P Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, addressed the function. The inaugural function was also attended by ambassadors / diplomats, academicians, senior government officials and development practitioners of Bangladesh, among others.

Dr. Durga P Paudyal, in his welcome address mentioned that CIRDAP prepared the strategic framework on the basis of which EC-25 and GC-15 agenda items were prepared. The agenda items for discussion in the meetings were related to promotion of regional cooperation, resource generation, and organisational structure of CIRDAP.

Business Session

EC-25 unanimously elected Bangladesh as the Chair as proposed by India and seconded by Malaysia and Pakistan. Like-wise, Philippines was elected as Vice-Chair of EC-25 as proposed by Thailand and seconded by Nepal, Myanmar and Indonesia.

REGULAR MEETING OF CIRDAP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC-25)

29-30 SEPTEMBER 2005
DHAKA, BANGLADESH



The business session of the meeting proceeded as per the adopted agenda. After extensive discussions on the agenda items, several recommendations were made by the EC-25 for approval of the GC-15 Meeting. Highlights of discussions and major issues are as follows:

- While deliberating the follow-up actions taken on the previous policy body meetings in Jakarta, Indonesia, DG, CIRDAP mentioned that in association with private sector and the link institutions CIRDAP hoped to develop local governance in Afghanistan and expected full cooperation in this regard from the host government. Pakistan also offered the services of National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD&MA) for training the rural development functionaries of Afghanistan.
- The EC members, particularly the delegate from Thailand appreciated the idea of cooperation between CIRDAP and ASEAN and recommended that the member countries of CIRDAP who are also members of ASEAN, be requested to take necessary initiative on this matter in ASEAN SOM RDPE meetings.
- Director General, CIRDAP mentioned that India is providing generous support to regional training for the last 3-4 years and the EC-25 requested such support from all other CMCs for training, pilot and research projects. It was also suggested that CIRDAP may help building institutional capacity in the field of training in Afghanistan and in setting up an institution for training. All CIRDAP member countries should join hands to support Afghanistan.
- The EC members discussed at length, CIRDAP's proposal to nominate academic/ training institutions as CIRDAP Link Institutions for ensuring more uniformity in operation. The members agreed that the CMCs should have the freedom and liberty to choose the appropriate body/institution.
- Iran suggested that Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which is also a regional organisation in West and Central Asia, could be associated with CIRDAP. Accordingly, the members recommended that regional cooperation bodies could be requested to associate themselves with CIRDAP especially as members of the Technical Committee.
- While discussing the revised Programme of Work and Budget (2004-2005), the members suggested that CIRDAP has to take more action research projects. First it should implement a programme and then study it for determining the scale of its replicability. It was also suggested that CIRDAP training programmes should benefit all the member states.
- While discussing the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the Fourteenth Biennium (2006-2007), it was generally agreed that CIRDAP should confine itself to its core activity of integrated rural development and need not go into other areas



Group photograph of the EC-15 delegates along with Chief Guest H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhauiyan (C).

such as Tsunami relief, border area development etc. Delegate from India suggested undertaking projects on appropriate technology and utilisation of space and information technology for communication, dissemination and education as tools of rural development. Delegate from Iran requested that the projects posed by them to CIRDAP be included in the PWB for 2006-2007. Delegate from Thailand took note of the project on Development of Alternative Partnerships between CBOs/Private Sector and Public Sector for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation. Therefore it was generally agreed that CIRDAP should concentrate on areas in which they have core competence.

- Philippines Ambassador to Bangladesh suggested CIRDAP to make an inventory of RD activities undertaken by other international organisations and make a comparative analysis in the region so as to enable CIRDAP to appreciate the needs of the member countries.
- While discussing the Centre's proposal of 'Setting-up of M&E Mechanism for RD and PA at National and Regional Levels', delegate from India suggested that instead of M&E, comprehensive database can be developed to learn, do research, and to evolve strategies and request for information from the member countries. The governments will choose their own institutions to collaborate with CIRDAP. While the contents of the proposal may remain, the title has to be changed to 'Development of Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanisms of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Processes in CMCs', to reflect on developing knowledge and database at CIRDAP. Critical success factors from the successful experiences from the member countries may be identified.
- While discussing the agenda on Redefining the Role of CIRDAP Network, it was appreciated by EC-25 that CIRDAP should generate further resources without being excessively dependent on donor support.
- The EC-25 recommended setting up a regional cooperation fund with voluntary contribution from CIRDAP member countries for expanding cooperation among the countries through experience sharing and human resource development.
- The observer from FAO suggested greater interaction between CIRDAP and FAO. Such collaboration may play a very important role in many ways in areas like rural institutional building, decentralisation policies and their impact on participation.
- The expert from Scott-Wilson, UK, referred to the international campaign on curbing corruption and CIRDAP's probable role in such a campaign. The suggestion of EC is to study transparency in implementing the rural development programmes and instead of corruption it could study and build a transparency index.
- While discussing the issue of Resource Mobilisation for CIRDAP from CMCs and other sources, the EC-25 reiterated CIRDAP's request to member countries which are yet to contribute increased contribution as decided in GC-12, to do so, and requested GC to use their good offices in this regard. The EC-25 also discussed the possibility of approaching the Government of Japan to renew its funding support to CIRDAP.
- CIRDAP should take up international consultancy both bilaterally and multi-laterally and organisations like FAO and IFAD can be requested to associate CIRDAP more in their projects. The EC-25 felt that since FAO is the parent organisation of CIRDAP, they should take more interest towards the Centre.
- The EC-25 recommended that the Governing Council may be approached to recommend to generate resources to collaborate with SAARC under the SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund. Similar help may be sought from ASEAN.

- EC-25 authorised the DG, CIRDAP to appoint a legal expert for preparing a draft on the amendments of the CIRDAP Agreement and place it before the next EC.
- While discussing institutional linkages of CIRDAP with other regional and international bodies EC-25 recommended that:
 - Member countries of ASEAN would also take up through their respective governments' proactive cooperation between CIRDAP and ASEAN.
 - The EC recommended to GC that the Director General, CIRDAP be authorised to sign MoUs with respect to activities relating to rural development and poverty alleviation. However, while signing MoU, CIRDAP should be careful to stick to its mandates.

21st Technical Committee Meeting

The Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP (TC-21) was held from 15-17 December 2005 at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The three-day meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of the Government of Malaysia, and H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Abi Musa Asa'ari bin Mohamed Nor, Honourable Secretary General of the Ministry inaugurated the meeting on 15 December 2005.



Group photograph of the delegates of TC-21 along with Chief Guest

During his inaugural speech, the Chief Guest welcomed the distinguish delegates of the Technical Committee from 13 countries, and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP conveyed the good wishes of the Government of Malaysia. He mentioned that the Government of Malaysia has decided to shift the contact institution from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry to the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development and hoped that this new institutional setting will be more appropriate. Director General, CIRDAP thanked Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based industry for his presence to inaugurate the meeting and said that there is an eagerness among CIRDAP Member Counties (CMCs) to learn from Malaysia as a successful model. He also referred to rural development and poverty alleviation plan of action of ASEAN and SAARC regions and said that CIRDAP is willing to contribute towards achieving these targets.

In the first business session, Drs. Arwan E. Surbakti, MSi, Director of Institution and Community Training, DGVCE, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of TC-21. The Director General, CIRDAP reported the activities of CIRDAP to the TC delegates from October 2004 to December 2005. After detailed discussion, the TC-21 made the following suggestions.

- CIRDAP should discuss ways to utilise comparative advantage in networking with CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) to strengthen its international standing in the global development; and
- CIRDAP should focus on policy development to facilitate timely and adequate interaction on rural development issues within the Asia-Pacific region.
- The delegates after considering the follow-up action on the suggestions of the TC-20 suggested expanding the programme of activities to share successful experiences with each other through the facilitation of CIRDAP and that CIRDAP's membership drive should be vigorously pursued in the Asia and the Pacific region.
- With regard to Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Regional Mechanism of Rural Development (RD) and Poverty Alleviation (PA) process, it was suggested that through on-line interaction most of the CLI information could easily be obtained and analysed, and concepts can be developed to support policy making as it is difficult for CLIs to do it. Also, it was suggested that CIRDAP may concentrate on successful rural development and poverty alleviation models and identify critical factors for success to be used by CLIs.
- The Director General, CIRDAP stated that proposal to set up a Regional Cooperation Fund with voluntary contributions was approved by EC/GC. FAO proposed that CIRDAP should identify priority areas and alternative paths for collaboration and resource mobilisation. After discussions on CLI/CIRDAP collaboration for providing consultancy services to CMCs, TC-21 suggested that CIRDAP may proceed on bidding for projects for providing technical services in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation.
- The idea of formation of a Regional Forum of Eminent Persons on RD and PA was welcomed by all the delegates. It was suggested that while CIRDAP will clarify the role and mode of engaging the eminent experts, CLIs will be assisting in identifying such people in the CMCs.
- Fourteen project proposals presented by CIRDAP generated a considerable interest among the TC members. It was suggested that CIRDAP should act as a clearing house to develop proposals in association with link institutions so as to make them acceptable to donor agencies; and that CIRDAP and CLIs IT infrastructure should be developed to cater to the regional networking needs.
- CMCs also presented the RD and PA activities performed in their countries during 2005. The delegates adopted the suggestions that CIRDAP and CLIs should establish inter-linked websites for exchange of information on IRD policies/practices and experiences, and that CIRDAP websites should post all the website addresses of CLIs.
- Director General of CIRDAP mentioned that a proposal for second Regional Policy Dialogue on RD and PA in Malaysia in 2006 is under consideration by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development of the Government of Malaysia.
- It was also mentioned that as ICARRD is major international conference on agrarian reform and rural development, CIRDAP can prepare, in collaboration with CLIs, the Comprehensive Asian Perspective on RD and PA. Therefore, TC-21 recommended that CIRDAP should be invited to the ICARRD conference to be held in Brazil.
- The TC-21 welcomed the proposal of Indonesia to host the 22nd meeting of the CIRDAP TC in Indonesia in 2006.

In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar

The four-day CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) 2005 was held on the third week of December 2005. The seminar took place in two phases. In the first phase, it was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters on 21-22 December 2005, and in the second phase, it was held at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Link Institution of CIRDAP in Bangladesh, from 26 to 27 December 2005.

In the first phase of CIARPS, CIRDAP reviewed its past activities, organisational capacity and professional strength, and accordingly adopted the plan of actions for 2006 to better serve the member countries. In the second phase, modalities of the relationship between CIRDAP and its link institutions was critically evaluated and a field visit to a BARD project village was organised.



Inaugural Session

CIARPS 2005 was inaugurated by Mr. Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, Honourable Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of the Government of Bangladesh on 21 December 2005 at the CIRDAP Auditorium. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head of Sub Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA), the Directors of all programme Divisions of CIRDAP, all professional and technical staff of the Centre attended the inaugural session.

Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Director Research, welcomed the participants and the Chief Guest to CIARPS 2005. He said that organisations like CIRDAP are facing many challenges today, and 2005 has indeed been a challenging year for the Centre. In the coming year CIRDAP has to find its own relevance and drive forward in its path.

After self-introduction by all the participants, Dr. B Sudhakar Rao, Director Training of CIRDAP, in his deliberation, highlighted the programme areas of CIRDAP and particularly emphasised the role of the Centre as Information Bank for this region. Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director,

Information and Communication, said that the year 2006 would be the year for regional and rural communication in the CIRDAP network. Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head of SOCSEA, mentioned that although in 2005 the Centre faced fund constraints and there were not many programmes and projects initiated during this time, CIRDAP should look forward to 2006 with optimism.

Dr. Durga Paudyal explored the relevance of the Centre in the context of the present development scenario. He mentioned that although the area-based integrated rural development programmes (IRDP) have become irrelevant, the concept of integration in the rural development activities among various sectors to make it a holistic approach is still very relevant. CIRDAP needs to articulate a new set of knowledge, new set of approaches and new ways of thinking based on the changing contexts of rural development. CIRDAP also needs to make its policy bodies more actively interested in the Centre. Knowledge Generation at the regional level should be the prime target of the Centre. To adapt to the changing context, the headquarters and the policy bodies need to be strengthened. Since the Centre is located in Bangladesh, the role and support of the Government of Bangladesh is very important for the Centre.

The Chief Guest, while inaugurating the CIARPS, said that rural development and poverty alleviation are major concerns for the Government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is proud to be the host of a regional organisation like CIRDAP. The Secretary also reiterated his government's whole-hearted support to the Centre.

Business Session

First Phase

The business session of the first phase was chaired by DG of CIRDAP. Seven presentations were made from Research, Pilot Projects, Training, Information and Communication, Planning and Resource Mobilisation, and Administration and Finance of CIRDAP, and SOCSEA, on their activities during 2005, and the indicative plans for 2006. Each presentation was followed by in-depth discussions and comments on the relevant issues. Following are some of the key points of discussions by the CIRDAP professionals:

- Research Division should be the propagator of new ideas that would really guide the Centre and also be the core knowledge-generator.
- The core activities of the divisions should be guided and led by the directors-they should be structured in such a way.
- Given the importance of information and communication in all the future activities of the Centre, the ICD cannot be an isolated entity, there has to be a strong linkage of ICD with all the divisions. All the divisions have to identify what are the services they want from each other. ICD should cater to all the communication needs of the Centre.
- There is a need for documenting all important events/activities (in addition to the projects) for future reference.
- The CIRDAP Headquarters can generate new research ideas and give them to the CLIs/CCMs for implantation at their own cost. The policy body meeting can be utilised to be the platform for interactions regarding these research programmes.
- The PPD is to develop modalities of consultancy services that can be rendered by CIRDAP. The Centre can take part in bidding for projects jointly with BARD. PPD can take the initiatives and if needed, can consult the other divisions for specific components (eg. ICD for audio-visual part).

- It was suggested that a fixed budget be allocated in the pilot projects for making video documentaries. ICD should be pro-active in preparing stories/ideas for videos.
- It was noted that the administrative part of holding policy bodies' meetings were done properly but the professional part, eg. monitoring and following up the suggestions and recommendations made by the policy bodies were not done properly. These need to be strongly followed up by PRMU and a mechanism for documentation and monitoring of suggestions and recommendations made by GC, EC and TC members should be developed. PRMU should have the ready knowledge to guide other divisions in developing project proposals, and it should develop parameters to monitor divisional activities.
- There is a need to institutionalise the training programmes within the Training Division and within CIRDAP so that the influx of training programmes can continue in the long run. It was also suggested to include resource persons from around the region instead of one or two countries only-in order to utilise cross-regional knowledge and expertise.
- It was expected that the training programmes will generate spill-over effects with particular reference to the continuity and capacity of each division.
- It was suggested to widely use the directory of resource persons for all programmes and projects and to readily make available all the information within CIRDAP so that programmes are not person-specific. Mainstream intellectuals in each country can be identified who can be utilised for different purposes.
- It was suggested that CIRDAP needs to develop core areas of specialisation within the organisation and also a core set of activities for its own credibility. All the activities of CIRDAP need to be synergised.
- The ICD needs to be pro-active and dynamic, and it should generate information that is required, not just what is available. The technological part of information and communication is improving slowly, and CIRDAP has progressed quite a lot from the previous years, but the culture of using the Internet or library resources have not been developed. The intra-divisional relationships should be developed.
- It was suggested that CIRDAP can establish e-groups to facilitate dialogues in the region. The recently established Local Area Network (LAN) should be properly utilised, not just for sharing files. Despatch persons should be trained. There should be a synergy of activities eg. Training Division to take care of all trainings, internal and external, instead of different divisions doing it on their own.
- It was suggested that as a regional branch of CIRDAP, SOCSEA should be made stronger, and it should play a more professional role. SOCSEA has high potentials to generate resources and it can become the main instrument to bridge ASEAN and CIRDAP together.

Second Phase

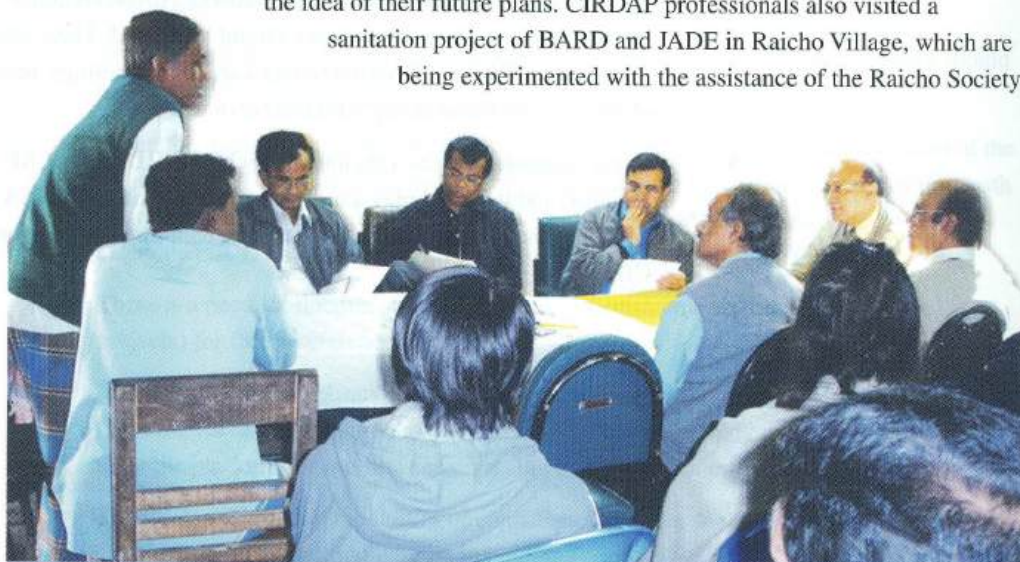
In the second phase of CIARPS, on 26th December 2006, two sessions were held at the BARD auditorium. In the morning session, CIRDAP finalised its divisional and all other plans for 2006 with the participation of DG, directors, professional and technical staff of CIRDAP and senior professionals of BARD.

In the afternoon session, CIRDAP and BARD professionals discussed some critical issues particularly relating strengthening relationship between CIRDAP and BARD, planning joint action programmes, joint bidding for international consultancy etc. The focus of this session was to get views and opinions of its link institution in Bangladesh with regards to its relationship with CIRDAP, its expectations, hopes and concerns for the Centre.

Mr. Muhammad Nazrul Islam, Director General of BARD was present at the two business sessions. He welcomed the participants at BARD. He emphasised the joint collaborative efforts between CIRDAP and BARD. The successful cases of the CLIs such as BARD's Comprehensive Village Development Project (CVDP) can be transmitted to the other CLIs. He solicited CIRDAP's strong support in the areas of research, pilot projects and information and communication technology (ICT).

During the discussion, the senior professionals from BARD tried to identify the gaps between the two institutions and discussed at length, how to resolve them. The need for a unified National Rural Development Policy was stressed, while taking due consideration of the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and millennium development goal (MDG) targets. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks and was followed by a dinner.

The next day, on 27th December, BARD officials organised a field visit for CIRDAP staff members. Raicho Society, a cooperative society in the village Raicho under Kalirbazar Union of Comilla Adarsha Sadar Upazila, Comilla, was the visit spot. It is a cooperative society that is being supervised by BARD under its CVDP. CIRDAP professionals talked with the members of the cooperative society and explored on their success, failure, strength and weaknesses, and also got the idea of their future plans. CIRDAP professionals also visited a sanitation project of BARD and JADE in Raicho Village, which are being experimented with the assistance of the Raicho Society.



Mr. Aminul Islam, Manager, Raicho Society, briefing the CIRDAP team on the activities of the society during the field visit

Research

- Overview of Rural Development Efforts in Bangladesh: Current Status and Future Directions
- Seminar on New Strategic Framework of CIRDAP
- International Seminar on a Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan for Bangladesh
- Regional Policy Dialogue on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation
- Appropriate Technology for Rural Women
- Rural Development Report 2005
- Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and RD and PA Process: A Framework
- Assessment of CVDP Impacts

Focused Areas

Macro-economic and adjustment policies

Studies on values of participation

Women development

Credit mobilisation

Environment management

Empowerment



Dr. Q.K. Ahmad presenting a paper at the regional policy dialogue

Research Division

In line with the strategic priorities in rural development endeavours in the CMCs, and keeping consistency with the CIRDAP mandate towards poverty reduction, the Research Division has focussed on furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in the member countries through the evolution of programme priorities in thematic areas. Accordingly, in the twenty five-year period spanning 1979-2004, the programme priorities have covered many areas including disadvantaged groups, gender, rural development, agrarian reform, environment, macro-policy issues etc.

The programme thrust of these areas recognises that given the overriding dominance of the agriculture sector in the rural economy in the CMCs and the mounting population pressure, improving agricultural productivity is the key to bringing improvements in the rural economy. Further, towards enhancing the role of Research Division as a viable player in the development momentum, the Centre's research agenda focuses on identifying the implications of macro-economic policies at the micro-level and on poverty and the efficacy of alternative processes to invoke grassroots participation and betterment in quality of life. To this end, 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. Besides providing useful analysis into problem areas, policy research generates ideas or information for relevant activities, programme actions, training to address rural development and poverty reduction issues.

During the year, CIRDAP research projects focussed on analysing key socio-economic issues in the rural areas to identify the dynamic elements of rural transformation and suggest policies for accelerating rural development in the member countries. The research outcomes have been widely disseminated through arranging seminars, workshops, consultations, as well as through various forms of publications. A brief review of the activities undertaken during the period is given below:

Overview of Rural Development Efforts in Bangladesh: Current Status and Future Directions

Research Division conducted a study on Institutional Mechanism for Rural Development in Bangladesh to examine the effectiveness of the current institutional network geared to promote rural development in the country. The issues of complementarities, coordination and sequencing of activities of the various institutions involved in the rural development (RD) and poverty alleviation (PA) activities were the main focus of the study. The study specifically examined whether a holistic and coordinated approach is in place to achieve the common goals of RD and PA. The purpose was to highlight the need for convergence of policy making and the implementation efforts by various stakeholders at the national and regional levels through close cooperation and networking required to achieve the desired goals of RD and PA as felt by the practitioners. In order to disseminate the findings of the study, a half day national seminar was organised under the auspices of the Centre on 22 August 2005. The seminar was inaugurated by



Mr. Saadat Hussain (R) speaking at the inaugural session. Also seen is Chief Guest

H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuyian, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives (MLGRD & C) at CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. Dr. Saadat Hussain, Secretary, Cabinet Division and Mr. Md. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, MLGRD & C of the Government of Bangladesh were also present as the special guests. The seminar was attended by the policy-makers, academicians, researchers, and senior government officials, representatives of the donor communities, international organisations, diplomatic missions, NGOs and other organisations.

Seminar on New Strategic Framework of CIRDAP

CIRDAP on the occasion of its 26th founding anniversary organised a national seminar on the 'New Strategic Framework of CIRDAP' on 6th July 2005 at the CIRDAP Auditorium. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad and President, Bangladesh Economic Association. The keynote paper 'Strategic Framework of CIRDAP: A Discussion Note' was presented by Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Director Research, CIRDAP, highlighting the salient features of the framework. Senior Academicians, government officials, development practitioners, representatives of UN agencies, diplomatic missions, and senior faculty members of CIRDAP attended the seminar and took part in the deliberations.

The CIRDAP New Strategy Paper, prepared in July 2004, was first discussed at the Centre's Technical Committee Meeting (TC-20) in Colombo in 2004. It was further revised and developed with a view to identifying the areas of changes, reforms and restructuring required to enhance CIRDAP's capabilities and improve the organisational and operational efficiencies that would facilitate achieving its mandated responsibilities.

Since its celebration of Silver Jubilee in 2004, the Centre has been going through a reorganisation process, and the strategy paper is an outcome of that process. The seminar suggests that given the emerging changes in the regional and international contexts of operation and increasing shift of donor interests toward NGOs and INGOs, the capability of government RD institutions have further weakened. In order to strengthen the government institutions and to support sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation, CIRDAP's structure, its in-house capabilities, functional modalities and collaborative arrangements need to be redrawn and strengthened. While the Centre needs to adopt new vision and strategies to make it more efficient and dynamic, the CIRDAP policy making bodies have to play pro-active roles as owners and beneficiaries to help the Centre tap required financial, human and material resources. The deliberations in the seminar also elaborate on the need for redesigning the Centre's operational procedures and collaboration mechanisms with the link institutions, other regional and international actors working in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation, and developing new rural development 'products' and marketing them effectively among the member countries and other potential users of its services. It was suggested that the Centre should play the role of a regional forum for exchanging experiences and enhancing regional cooperation in rural development and poverty alleviation using its extensive and diverse network of contacts with the policy-makers, professionals, experts and NGOs and INGOs.

Based on the need for revisiting rural development and poverty alleviation approaches and policies in the context of paradigm shifts in the overall national development policies and strategies globally, a Regional Policy Dialogue on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation has been initiated by CIRDAP from this year which is expected to be continued in future as a major agenda to take up with the Centre's policy bodies-the Executive Committee and the Governing Council-meetings.

International Seminar on a Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan for Bangladesh

As many developing countries are being subjected to acute vulnerability to natural disasters and their devastating long-term impacts, especially on the poor, a number of international and national organisations have developed procedures for managing the consequences of natural disasters. Such disaster management plans for a poor country like Bangladesh should incorporate comprehensiveness to protect all sectors of vulnerable groups in the disaster-prone areas and try to strike a balance between disaster mitigation and value addition to the national economy. This was observed by the participants of an international seminar jointly organised by CIRDAP and Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAAB) at the CIRDAP Auditorium on 13 September 2005. The participants praised the efforts made by Bangladesh Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) for producing excellent and comprehensive Disaster Management guidelines for all ministries, departments, agencies and administration down to union level. The participants emphasised strictly following up these guidelines to minimise the loss of lives and properties. The seminar strongly advocated launching the Disaster Management Plan, especially the Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response in the curricula of primary schools, secondary schools and high schools to generate awareness and orient the future generation towards facing future disasters in a systematic manner. The seminar underscored the need for promoting new thinking under the prevailing conditions as to how the government institutions and private sector organisations can jointly cope with the grave problems almost constantly threatening lives and properties in Bangladesh.

Regional Policy Dialogue on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

A day-long Regional Policy Dialogue on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation was held at CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka on 1 October, 2005. The purpose of holding the Policy Dialogue was to bring rural development at the centre stage of the national development strategies to sharpen the focus on rural development and poverty alleviation and identify some of the critical institutional issues for CIRDAP to address that are standing on the way to sustainable development, economic growth and social progress of a nation through rural development and poverty alleviation processes in the CIRDAP Countries. Policy-makers from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) took part in the Policy Dialogue. High-level delegation consisting of the ministers and secretaries of line ministries in CMCs who came to attend the policy body meetings (meetings of Executive Committee/Governing Council) in Dhaka, took part in the deliberations. Other distinguished participants and guests were ambassadors/high commissioners or representatives of the diplomatic missions in Dhaka, dignitaries, senior government officials, representatives of UN system organisations- FAO/RAP and donor community, specialised agencies, international organisations, rural development experts from UK and Japan, GOs/NGOs/INGOs, academicians, researchers in policy-matters and specialists who were working as Think Tank members in various organisations and selected members of civil society participated in the Policy Dialogue.

Major Recommendations

The delegates and the participants of the policy dialogue discussed the papers presented in the dialogue and recommended the following:

- The dialogue noted that within the core competence of CIRDAP and the need for policy advocacy at the country level, CIRDAP's studies and evaluation need to be harmonised in such a way that the CMCs be able to promote and replicate success stories. The review of the issues raised in the dialogue pointed out a number of areas where appropriate actions might be taken to strengthen the relationship between CIRDAP and CMCs:
- With the recognised ability and advantages of CIRDAP, emphasis should be given to rural development and avoiding venturing into unknown territories. Concentration on promoting small business in the rural sectors through organising cooperatives should be given special attention;

- CIRDAP should emphasise undertaking a comprehensive analysis of poverty in the region highlighting specific problems in the country/ regional levels. Emphasis may also be put on the need for diverting the budgets on military expenditures towards rural development so as to achieve economic growth in the region.



Policy dialogue in session

- Advocacy to promote the use of information technology in the rural areas to help the rural poor cope with the growing market access to challenges and opportunities.
- The dialogue duly recognised the importance of generating empowerment for rural poor through education, outsourcing, and support for agriculture, farm and non-farm enterprises and suggested developing specific programmes for them;
- Malaysia's successful achievements in infrastructure development, rural industries, nurturing excellent individuals, resilient societies and sustainable economy due to strong political will and support, strong commitment towards efficient administration and management, explicit policy statements and clear targets etc. which led to successful rural development were emphatically cited. It was emphasised that there should be specific plans for the rural areas to incorporate these issues in the national framework of development in the CMCs;
- Targeted programmes should be developed for instable communities;
- In order to achieve the rural development objectives at the regional level, the CMCs should cooperate with each other meaningfully through joining hands by complementing each other for every effort, opening doors for economic integration, getting benefit from the successful experiences of other nations and by renewing commitments ;
- Specific criteria should be developed to distinguish one country from other and to identify the success models that could be replicated;
- CIRDAP should find its niche, to identify what it can do which others cannot. New partners of development should be found;
- Emphasised the importance of involving different players in rural development such as the NGOs, civil societies and business sector;
- CIRDAP should work closely with other development partners and should be able to provide first hand information on the priority need of the CMCs;
- Communication mechanisms among CMCs should be improved in order to know the real institutional needs;

- In order to attain the rural development goals, the issue of governance and the need for anti-corruption mechanisms should be highlighted;
- In order to improve the living conditions of both the rural and urban poor, the CMCs should give more emphasis on planning for development since there exists contradictions between the dynamics of the two paradigms: economics (disparity reduction) and environment (protection and enhancement);
- CIRDAP should undertake more study on the impact of macro-economic policies on the lives of the rural poor sectors;
- Emphasised the need for designing and implementing a knowledge development and review mechanism that is supported by coherent institutional mechanisms for rural development. The usefulness of the proposed mechanism is reinforced by the challenges of globalisation and tracking of the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- CIRDAP should continue to prepare the RD Report by using appropriate methodology to come up with a unified report on rural development out of the various activities, experiences, and updates on new state policies from the different CMCs. The Rural Development Report could be patterned the way UNDP came up with the indicators, i.e., HDI. Thus CIRDAP could come up with RDI;
- The Regional Policy Dialogue is a potential way to deepen cooperation among CMCs and CIRDAP and should continue in future.

A special publication titled 'Current Status and Future Perspectives on Rural Development in the CIRDAP Member Countries' is expected to be circulated by the end of February 2006.

Appropriate Technology for Rural Women

This is a carried-over project from the last 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 action research project aimed to identify, disseminate and field-test appropriate technologies towards improving status of labour force, with emphasis on making women's work productive and income and employment generating for rural women in the two selected CMCs.

Major Objectives:

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

Status

Country-level experiments are almost over. According to the schedule of activities, a regional workshop will be organised by March 2006 to discuss the findings of the experiment and devise future course of action.

Rural Development Report 2005

CIRDAP has been publishing a Rural Development Report in every two years since '80s to bring out a comparative picture and to highlight the issues that need policy changes. The last report was published in 1999. The next issue of the report has been prepared and submitted during the CIRDAP Executive Committee and Governing Council Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in September-October 2005. The printed report will be available in early 2006.

Highlights of Major Findings

The Rural Development Report 2005 highlights the policies pursued in the Asia-Pacific region in the realm of rural development and poverty alleviation. The liberal policies pursued, the structural reforms undertaken and economic reforms initiated by all countries in the region irrespective of political contexts-have yielded rich dividends. This can be seen in the leap forward in GDP growth, knowledge based sectoral growth, productivity levels, human development, farm and non-farm sector growth, decentralised efforts and innovative micro-interventions. But these are not uniformly distributed, between the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, where certain islands of growth, prosperity and flourishing market economy can be seen along with pockets of high poverty, illiteracy and destitution. It is the context of a Regional Development Report (RDR 2005) prepared by CIRDAP.

The Report aims at bringing to the attention of policy-makers some important issues confronting the region, such as:

- To facilitate knowledge generation and knowledge management to tackle such issues like growth with equity, productivity enhancement and participation, unemployment, poverty, etc.
- To broadly generate interest in a policy dialogue between the member countries and to facilitate learning from successful and innovative policies/projects and cross-country experiences; and
- Promote policies that interface economic growth in the subjects like social development, cultural aspects, governance, decentralisation, infrastructure development, etc.

It is presumed that all inclusive rural development and sustainable agricultural development requires sustainable macro-policies, accountable micro-level institutions and growing/dynamic linkages between all stakeholders. Thus Rural Development Report 2005 is divided into 10 chapters focusing on contemporary issues that have a bearing in achieving country targets and MDGs. Important issues which deserve priority attention of the regional policy-makers are:

Distortions in Growth : Fourteen CIRDAP member countries account for a total population of about 2.04 billion and cover an area of 11 million sq. km. India, Indonesia and Iran account for about 61 per cent of the land area, about 66 per cent of the rural population, and if Pakistan and Vietnam are added to this list, the number of rural population goes up to 85.7 per cent. However, per capita GDP is relatively high in Iran, Malaysia and Thailand and relatively low in Nepal, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Vietnam and India. Thus several distortions in economic and social indicators are seen in the growth pattern of rural areas (the highest per capita GDP of US \$3905 in Malaysia, as compared to lowest per capita GDP of US \$230 in Nepal during the year 2002). These disparities can be directly related to rural-led economic growth strategies pursued by some countries.

Population Pressure and Factor Movements : Another characteristic of development is related to growing urbanisation due to factor movements-particularly population migration, and the size of population. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh is projected to have a population of 1.80 billion by 2005 (one-third of world population) and their youth population (>18) would be around 40 per

cent, meaning job creation is to be on the top of the agenda in non-farm service/ activities, as the youth are generally avoiding farm-based incomes/employment and other traditional activities. In a few CIRDAP countries, there is a radical transformation, like that of Malaysia, to achieve MDGs and to reduce poverty to the minimum. India with its booming economy is living with both poverty and prosperity like twins.

Economic Dualism : Asia as a whole is regarded as a powerhouse of development, with some economies growing at more than 9 per cent, while in others it is 4-5 per cent. Some of the fastest growing economies (like India) have contributed to the emergence of a middle class, that brought a revolution in certain sectors like IT, biotechnology, and necessarily created infrastructure for expanded markets and the globalisation process. Some countries are yet to derive the benefits of the knowledge revolution calling for regional cooperation in technology transfer, bilateral and multilateral trade and diversification of economic opportunities. However, growth alone factor proved to be ineffective in down-sizing the numbers of the rural poor and their access to economic factors of production, social amenities and cultural improvements. Poverty thus is a major policy product in number of countries, in the region.

Governance Problem : Governance problems are directly related to such aspects as: promote eco-systems for wealth creation, to reduce transaction costs for the poor, to help develop choices with private sector participation, to make programme/project implementation effective, without any leakages, and to promote self-governance and local governance capabilities. For example governance problems are echoed in every forum in Bangladesh, as public and private investment is said to be stagnant at 23 percent of GDP for almost 9 years or so.

Decentralised and Pro-Poor Governance : To enhance participation of the poor in local decision making, decentralisation of power, function and funds to local institutions is discussed and debated. In spite of good intentions, the desired benefits could not be drawn in some countries. It is said in the case of Bangladesh, local taxes and non-tax revenues can hardly finance the local government expenditure and no effort is made to build up accountability of local governments to their wards. In India, the local bureaucracy is still dominant and attempts are slow and institutional linkages are suggested to be weak. Indonesia, under the new economic system, is working hard towards rural community development, and Lao PDR is working on 'centres for change and learning' through empowering district and local institutions. Malaysia and Indonesia are generally macro-oriented, with centralised authorities. Myanmar is at the evolving stage for a constitution, and in Nepal the local institutions are playing only a supplementary role. Philippines is considered politically decentralised, with of course a diminishing local autonomy. In Thailand the local governments suffer from low levels of people's participation. There are several key issues that need to be addressed in the management of decentralisation of policies.

Human Development : Another dimension of development which reigns supremacy in the policy agenda of each CMC is the Human Development. South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific account for 524 (63%) million under-nourished people out of 831 million in the world. The development and under-development that characterises South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) can be seen in other Human Development indicators-4 million children (compared with 1 million in EAP), under age 5 dying each year, 32 million not going to school at the primary level (compared with 14 million in EAP) and about 100 million without access to sanitation and more than 6 times of this figure without access to safe drinking water. This problem of social (HRD) and economic deprivation would call for drastic measures and related huge investments in some countries.

Emerging Trends and the Common Perspective : In spite of various poverty alleviation efforts, significant sections of the population in different CMCs are suffering from poverty. In most countries poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon, and a large population lives in the rural areas. In varying scale, in all countries reported in this volume poverty is on the decrease except occasional vicissitudes. Limited employment opportunities, poor skill and educational level represented the macro-factors. In the context of social structure resource inequality is reported commonly. Environmental degradation and unplanned exploitation of resources for the market are also included. A few country papers shed light on political turmoil and corruption.

At the level of policy, certain common factors have also emerged. Macro-economic stability and economic growth received priority along with targeted programmes. As an issue poverty alleviation remained a part of rural development and gradually occupied the central place in the development agenda. Because of top priority accorded this issue is a common policy approach in all the countries. In each country different ministries are engaged in it, and the involvement of the NGOs is also an emerging trend. Notion of poverty is not confined to economic deprivation; social deprivation is also adequately echoed. Intervention is understood to creating an enabling environment with an increased emphasis on rural-finance and other developmental inputs, including social and economic architecture. But a lot remains to be done to alleviate poverty, improve distribution of income, achieve human development and raise productivity to improve economic and social well-being especially of the rural poor in many of the CMCs. Judicious policy intervention for attending faster, sustainable and equitable economic and social development is thus called for. CIRDAP is to play a very important coordinating role in the process through effective networking among the CMCs relating to RD and PA processes pursued by these countries.

Identified Several New Areas

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 important emerging global concerns are related to poverty, environment and sustainability, pro-poor policies, small enterprise development, gender development and equity, justice and growth. New arrangements under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are effecting the least developed countries (LDCs), particularly the low-income groups. There are some other related aspects which deserve attention. These include economic and political decentralisation to hear the voices of the poor and enable them to participate in decision making and implementation process, good governance to make services work for the poor, food security and agricultural growth issues, etc. It is expected that the following ideas will be able to address the above issues:

- Forest Policies in the CMCs: An Evaluation of Environmental and Developmental Impacts
- Study on the Role of Livestock as Source of Alternative Livelihoods in the CMCs
- Study on Development of Rural Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh
- Impact of Rural Electrification on Rural Development/Rural Industrialisation
- Public/Private Partnership Development in the Management of Local Level Infrastructure
- Development of Agro-based Industries in Bangladesh: Prospects, Constraints and Potentials
- Rural-Urban Migration: A Comparative Study in Selected CMCs
- A Comparative Study on Decentralisation and Participatory Governance in Selected CMCs
- Rural Unemployment and Underemployment in Bangladesh: An Update for Policy Formulation
- Rural Indebtedness Revisited
- Seeking Alternative Sources of Livelihoods in Rural Bangladesh: The Case for Rural Non-Farm Activities

Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and RD–PA Processes: A Framework

CIRDAP assumed new role for designing and implementing a concerted and coherent institutional mechanism for RD which is reinforced by the impending challenges of globalisation and achievement of the MDGs within the framework of a market economy system. However, as the targets of MDGs are time-bound and disaggregated and need to be implemented by different line ministries and their affiliated agencies and departments, NGOs, and other private sectors stakeholders, this will involve rigorous monitoring and evaluation through collection, collation and analysis of data for tracking progress at both individual country and regional levels. This was revealed during the regional dialogue on RD organised by CIRDAP during the 25th CIRDAP Executive Meeting and 15th Governing Council Meeting. The specific tasks given to CIRDAP as to how best CIRDAP can assist the CMCs in developing and institutionalising a comprehensive CKGRM for helping RD and PA policy formulation and implementation and achievement of sustained development of the rural economy for poverty alleviation and achievement of the MDGs.

Seminar on
Strategic Framework for CIRDAP: A New Perspective
6 July 2005
CIRDAP, Dhaka



While CIRDAP's mission and vision and its institutional structure perceived and developed by its pioneers still hold good broadly, they require contextualisation with the contemporary realities, especially changes and evolutions in the IRD concept and paradigm shifts in the national development strategies. Thus, in view of the current trends and emerging changes, the role of CIRDAP in both national and regional perspectives needs critical reorientation both conceptually and structurally so that it may be repositioned as an effective regional forum for policy coordination and promotion of regional cooperation in the areas of RD and PA in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is against this background that CIRDAP developed a strategic framework document (CFSD), based on a careful review of its past endeavours, experiences and achievements, and future challenges in order to be able to make meaningful contributions to CMCs in achieving their goals relating to RD and PA and through these the broad national development objectives of faster, equitable and sustained economic growth and social development.

A strategic issue proposed in the CFSD is to develop and institutionalise a comprehensive CKGRM for collection, collation and dissemination of data and information from all concerned agencies and generate a knowledge base on the progress of implementation of RD and PA policies

and achievement of the MDGs. This is proposed to be done through utilising and revitalising the CCMs and the CLIs in the CMCs which are mandated and equipped for carrying out RD research and training and generating knowledge and documentation of information. In this context, a conceptual and institutional framework is proposed for developing and institutionalising the CKGRM process.

Institutional Capacity Building : In each CMC, there will be a national coordination committee (NCC) consisting of the representatives from all line ministries involved in the RD implementation process including those from the NGOs, civil societies, academia and research organisations and other private sector stakeholders. This will be the apex body for monitoring and overall assessment of the progress and impacts of the RD efforts. Needless to emphasise, the NCC will also address the policy-related and strategic issues arising out of the M&E functions performed by national RD focal point which will be CIRDAP link institutions in each CMC. The national focal point will prepare an annual review report on RD and PA processes in the CMCs, based on which a synthesised RD report will be prepared by CIRDAP for discussion once in every two years during the EC/GC meetings in a regional dialogue. These regional dialogues participated by the CMCs will ensure effective exchange of views and ideas on RD and PA experiences, generate new knowledge for dissemination and most important of all assure political commitment of the CMC government towards CIRDAP's efforts at regional cooperation for coordinating RD activities.

Assessment of CVDP Impacts

Research Division, CIRDAP conducted a brainstorming session on the concept of assessing and advancing the levels of development of the comprehensive village co-operative societies in Bangladesh : modelling the Agrarian Reform Communities' Level of Development Assessment (ALDA) tool as conceptualised and implemented by the contact ministry, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Philippines on 29 November, 2005 at CIRDAP HQ. This concept was developed by CIRDAP following the request from the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, CIRDAP contact ministry in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, the link institution of CIRDAP. The idea was conceived during the wrap-up meeting of CIRDAP Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS)-2004 in BARD campus in December 2004. It may be mentioned here that BARD, the pioneer organisation of rural development in Bangladesh has been successfully experimenting the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) in Bangladesh since 1983.



Programme Officer Ms. Tuzon making a presentation

CVDP was actually introduced to find out a strategy that would reduce duplication of efforts and multiplicity of organisations at the rural areas as observed in Bangladesh with numerous

development players almost without coordination. Poverty alleviation efforts of donor-supported programmes, and also by NGOs/INGOs have followed small target group approach resulted in a huge exclusion. The basic hypothesis of the target group based programmes is that both the rich and poor and the male and female cannot work together for their mutual benefit. The issue got prominence when landlessness and poverty continued to be increasing in the country. So CVDP was initiated as a counter programme against all those target group oriented approach. That was its challenge. After experimentation for more than 20 years, the CVDP programme has been able to demonstrate a number of positive results as given below:

- Looking at the integrated and sustainable character of the CVDP co-operatives at the village level it can be seen that the organisations could build their strength. Regular training and rotation of managing committee as per co-operatives law developed a band of leadership in the villages who could manage the co-operatives.
- CVDP could ensure enrolment of all categories of people in the villages in one village organisation. The coverage of households in the organisations is quite high. This means CVDP could ensure participation of all categories of people particularly the poor and women and could provide them access to credit and other services. Enrolment of children and youth in the co-operatives is also a good example.
- For managing rural development organisations, leadership is an important issue. In the absence of able leadership, rural organisations cannot sustain. This problem becomes more acute when there is multiplicity of organisations at the village level, thinning the availability of able leadership. CVDP, with one organisation at one village with constant training on leadership and management, did not face the problem so much like other target group organisations.
- CVDP co-operatives could accumulate a substantial amount of capital by their own effort. In fact their own money formed an important component of credit provided for income-generating activities by the individual members and business activities initiated by the co-operatives themselves.
- Poverty alleviation in the target group approaches mainly through micro-credit has limitations. In CVDP the resources of the landowners and others in the villages were utilised optimally which generated income and employment in the villages even for the poor. So resource utilisation in a planned manner by the villagers themselves is a point for poverty alleviation. CVDP could establish this issue through its activities.
- CVDP paid emphasis on education, health, sanitation, and environment preservation, development of livestock and fisheries for community welfare like the target group approach. For sustaining these issues as components for poverty alleviation and rural development, CVDP could establish linkages with the relevant agencies-government, local government, private sector and NGOs. In this approach, the resources and social capital (trust, networks etc.) of all the villagers and the co-operatives were used for overall livelihood development of the villagers.
- Integrated sustainable rural development needs participation of all the people in a locality or in a unit like a village along with their resources. Without the involvement and participation of the majority of the people with their resources one can have very little integration of activities. Integration by definition means integration of resources, integration of programmes and integration of workers of all the relevant agencies. CVDP could ensure all these integration at the village level and maintained structural linkages with higher level supporting agencies. Here lies the strength of CVDP as a sustainable development organisation.

- CVDP continued to lay emphasis on human resource development through training. Besides leadership training for managing the co-operatives, it could create a band of workers in every cooperative in the fields of accounts keeping, irrigation management, crop cultivation, horticulture, livestock and fisheries, health, nutrition, sanitation, family planning etc. Equal emphasis was given on women while selecting these field-level workers. This human resource development effort also reduced dependence on the government extension workers.

Being encouraged by the remarkable progress of the programme, the Government of Bangladesh is actively considering taking over and replicating the project all over Bangladesh on a large scale. But what is needed now is to assess the stage of development of the CVDP societies and whether the individual societies would require any modification/improvement in their development perspectives. So, CIRDAP following the call from the MLGRD & C developed the concept proposal to assess community based rural development programmes being conducted by BARD through the application of tested modules of other CMCs. It is expected that this project would be extended in other CMCs if found suitable in Bangladesh. Major comments and recommendations of the brainstorming session are given below:

Major Comments:

- CVDP activities are somehow similar with ALDA's activities though the approach is different.
- The tools used in evaluating ALDA's performance need to be modified to adjust to the programme activities of CVDP in Bangladesh since Bangladesh villages are agro-based and most villages are labour intensive. While using the tools prior consideration should be given to reflect the organisational maturity in CVDP villages.
- The role of Local Government must be highlighted in the evaluation process.
- Evaluation of CVDP is required to improve its performance further.
- Though CVDP itself has its own mechanisms to evaluate, the performance in different stages is not sufficient.
- In Bangladesh, 70-75 per cent people do not have agricultural land. So the tools developed for ALDA may not be feasible in Bangladesh context.
- The poor people in Bangladesh require financial assistance to involve them in different trades.
- Though CVDP concept is to bring the whole community in its fold, but still the middle-class having little amount of land is the worst sufferer in the present development activities.
- It was observed that HYV technologies being provided through CVDP help improve the living conditions of the poor people.
- Micro-credit is tremendously helping the poor people but it is not sufficient with the present ceiling.
- Memberships in CVDP are increasing day by day. Their savings are also increasing but proper utilisations of their savings are not possible due to unavailability of proper guidance.
- Some of CVDP participants expressed their demand for more capital in order to run their day to day business.
- Training is also required.
- Some participants observed that the CVDP is going to increase the inequality among its members.
- The concept needs to be elaborated further to make a proposal.

- The venture in ALDA and activities of CVDP should be clearly highlighted in the proposal.
- A clear methodology is to be worked out to describe how other CMCs are going to be benefited from this exercise.
- Before going to implement the project in 14 CMCs, the idea could be tested in Bangladesh on a pilot basis after necessary modification/adjustment. If this can be found relevant, then a detailed proposal may be prepared and submitted to donors for possible funding. But the findings of pilot test have to be discussed in seminars having participation from the relevant people.

Recommendations:

- The concept proposal should be modified/ adjusted to reflect CVDP programme objectives.
- The modified proposal should be discussed with concerned BARD officials and prepare a detailed work plan to test it on pilot basis in selected CVDP villages.
- While selecting the CVDP villages, a non-CVDP village would also be considered in order to gauge the actual performance of the CVDP programme.
- The findings of evaluation should be discussed in a national seminar, and based on the comments/suggestions a proposal should be developed to evaluate similar kinds of activities in other CMCs.

Pilot Projects

- Training-cum-Exposure Visit for the Zambian Officials
- Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia (SCOPE)
- Exposure Visit of Bangladesh Officials to Thailand
- Vision for 2006 and beyond

Focused 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



Interaction with the local community at Sunamganj, Bangladesh

Pilot Projects Division

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. The pilot projects are basically designed to be conducted at the field level in the CMCs.

The pilot projects involve the rural communities in various activities such as rural income and employment generation; credit and marketing through formal and informal organisations; rural primary health care; family planning; non-formal education, human resource development; small-scale rural infrastructure and rural resource mobilisation.

The major project activities conducted during 2005 are as follows:

Training-cum-Exposure Visit for the Zambian Officials

This programme has originated in 2003 with a request from Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas (PaViDIA) Project, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Zambia Office, through JICA-Bangladesh to conduct the orientation training on participatory village development for a Zambian official working as counterpart in PaViDIA. CIRDAP conducted the requested training at its Headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1 to 20 February 2003.

The orientation training was followed by a seminar in Lusaka, Zambia from 9 to 15 March 2003 on 'CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD) and Monitoring of Projects' organised by Director, Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP. He also visited the project site and submitted a report to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Zambia and JICA-Zambia. CIRDAP was requested again to organise a similar exposure training visit programme for three counterparts of PaViDIA belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Zambia. CIRDAP organised the exposure training for them from 13 June to 10 July 2003.



Zambian officials in the orientation training programme on participatory village development in Bangladesh

CIRDAP received another request from Mr. Hiroyuki Kanazawa, PaViDIA Rural Development Adviser to conduct another training course for two trainees, namely, Mr. Martin Muyunda, and Mr. Justine Lubumbe, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officer and Acting Block Extension Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Republic of Zambia, from 5 June to 6 July 2004 at CIRDAP in Bangladesh. For 2005, Pilot Projects Division conducted Exposure Training Visit for JICA-Zambia Officials, their Counterpart Officials and two Officials from the

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Republic of Zambia from 8 to 30 October 2005. Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CIRDAP and Bangladesh on 5 October 2005. Pilot Projects Division organised Exposure Visit for two JICA Experts and their two counterparts, namely, Dr. Junji Takahashi, Chief Adviser, PaViDIA, Mr. Takahiro Miyoshi, Adviser, M&E, PaViDIA, Mr. Imataa Mukenani Akayombokwa, Director, Department of Field Services, and Mr. Martin Sekeleti, Programme Officer, PaViDIA, from 8 to 14 October 2005. Training Visit for two Zambian officials from the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Republic of Zambia, namely, Mr. Charles Reuben Kabwe, Fisheries Assistant and Mr. Felix Kaluba, Veterinarian, was arranged from 8 to 30 October 2005.

Objectives

The objectives of the exposure training visits were to help the participants have a better understanding of:

- The concept, principles and features of Community Information and Planning System (CIPS);
- The evolution of CARD on the basis of CIPS and its application in CIRDAP pilot projects;
- The activities of GOs and NGOs in the field of social mobilisation, micro-finance, income generating activities (IGAs), sustainable rural development, and community-level planning;
- The development of rural infrastructure;
- The development of human resources;
- Institutions' mechanisms, policies and tools for agriculture extension, cooperatives, rural development, self-help groups (SHGs), and community organisations;
- Project cycle management (PCM); and
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME)

Training Methodologies

The training methods consisted of lectures by the CIRDAP professionals and invited guests, interactive discussions with them, and the field visits.

Practical training on PCM and PME were conducted at a village near Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), namely, Joshpur in Comilla District. The training curriculum includes a transect walk, problem listing with the villagers, core problem identification, formulation of problem tree and objective tree, and preparing the project design matrix (PDM). Participatory methodologies were explained by using video presentation before going for field trips. During field visits, participatory tools and techniques were demonstrated with the assistance from faculty of BARD.

The exposure training visit stimulated the enthusiasm for rural development in the two trainees (officials from the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Republic of Zambia).

Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia (SCOPE)

This project has been running for slightly over one and a half years since June 2004. Project duration is 3 years, starting from June 2004 until May 2007. CIRDAP and Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform (ANGOC) are implementing the project jointly. Countries covered under SCOPE project are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and Philippines, and CIRDAP is responsible for the capacity building intervention activities in Bangladesh and India. The total project fund contributed by IFAD under the Technical Grant is US\$510,000.

Fund allotted for ANGOC and CIRDAP are US\$347,000 and US\$103,000 respectively, based on the responsibilities to be taken care of. In-kind contributions from CIRDAP and ANGOC include 36 months of staff members' time, other regional staff time and use of office facilities estimated at US\$60,000.

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the rural poor and their organisations. To achieve the goal, the project aims to increase the capacity of IFAD and its partners to design and implement community based organisation (CBO) development actions and promote up-scaling and policy linkages of CBOs through their clusters and federations. In the process, the project identified one IFAD-funded project in each of the five countries involved in SCOPE project. Sunamgonj Community Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) in Bangladesh and Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) in India are identified by SCOPE to be the focus of capacity building intervention activities for CIRDAP.



During 2005 Director General of CIRDAP attended the Second Steering Committee Meeting of SCOPE in Pasig City, Philippines from 16 to 17 April 2005. Activities for coming project year were discussed during that meeting. Capacity building needs assessment of SCBRMP was done in June 2005, and conducted by the consultant from CIRDAP Link Institution, BARD. For OTELP, identification of the project was a little bit late compared to SCBRMP and its capacity building needs assessment was done only in September 2005, and conducted by MYRADA, an organisation recommended by ANGOC, CIRDAP's SCOPE implementation partner.

Although capacity building intervention activities were supposed to be done in 2005, late transfer of the project fund and the time required for communication between the parties involved, i.e., IFAD, ANGOC, and CIRDAP, resulted in delayed procedure for capacity building intervention activities. Application and decision making-process for SCOPE Grant Support was discussed and agreed with the project directors during the meetings held before and after the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Source Book Workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 28 November 2005. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for SCOPE Grant Support to the projects involved was finalised between ANGOC and CIRDAP in March 2006. CIRDAP's role in the in-country capacity building intervention is to monitor and evaluate whether the activities are implemented according to the Grant Proposal submitted by SCBRMP. MOA between SCBRMP, CIRDAP and ANGOC was signed within the same month and 60 per cent of the Grant has been released to SCBRMP at the end of March 2006 for implementation activities.

Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of the rural poor and their organisations.
- To enable the rural poor to form strong coalitions and federations.
- To increase the capacity of IFAD and its partners to design and implement CBO development actions and promote up-scaling and policy linkages of CBOs through their clusters and federations.

Expected outcomes

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

It is hoped that CSO Source Book produced under this project will help IFAD project staff and their CSO partners in implementing the projects more effectively and efficiently in the future. And by building the capacity of the CBOs, it is expected that these CBOs will be able to sustain after the withdrawal of the donor agencies and project implementers.

Exposure Visit of Bangladesh Officials to Thailand

The Royal Thai Ambassador offered, in July 2005 one Exposure Visit to Royal Project in Thailand for the Bangladesh officials. Pilot Projects Division (PPD) facilitated the process in collaboration with Rural Development & Cooperative Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives (MOLGRD&C) of the Government of Bangladesh. Among the nominees proposed by the MOLGRD&C, Mr. M. Khairul Kabir, Director (Project) of BARD and Mr. A.T.M. Altaf Hosain, Additional Director (Training) of Rural Development Academy were selected for the Exposure Visit. These two delegates, along with other four delegates from the Ministries of Agriculture; Fisheries and Livestock; Foreign Affairs; and Prime Minister's Office attended the week-long Exposure Visit in Thailand from 7 to 13 August 2005, arranged by the Royal Thai Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The delegates had opportunities to visit Royal Chitralada Project, Office of the Royal Development Projects, Khao Hin Sorn Royal Development Study Centre, One Tambon One Product (OTOP) Showcase, Export Promotion Department, Bang Sai Royal Folk Arts and Craft Center, Huai Sai Royal Development Study Center and a project village and a cooperative society.

This Exposure Visit was really helpful to the delegates by giving them a chance to see the objectives of the Royal Projects and how they are implemented by concerned departments.

Vision for 2006 and Beyond

Although RD concept is changing with times, it is aiming at the same goal to alleviate poverty and to enhance the socio-economic condition of the rural people. When talking about RD, people usually think of the development of agriculture and agricultural-related activities. But one has to understand that agriculture alone cannot help to enhance and sustain the socio-economic conditions of the rural people. Major adjustments are needed in agricultural, environmental and macro-economic policy, at both national and international levels, in developed as well as developing countries if sustainability is a major concern. Only when these adjustments are achieved, food security and rural development will be attained in a sustainable way, thus, alleviating poverty and improving the socio-economic condition of the rural people. This required the development of education, appropriate and new technologies, employment and income generation, awareness building on natural resource management and environmental protection, and knowledge to utilise market information and economic incentives. Based on this assumption, PPD will focus on the following in performing its tasks in 2006 and beyond:

- To develop project proposals using bottom-up approach for rural community development and poverty alleviation.
- To promote sustainable development through social mobilisation and awareness building during project implementation process.
- To use CIPS and CARD in project implementation process whenever appropriate.
- To include income-generating activities in developing the project proposals.

Training

- Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-finance in Bangladesh for Officials from India and Sri Lanka
- In-country Training Programmes
- Programmes in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar
- Regional Programmes
- GIS and IT Applications for Rural Development,
- Poverty-focused Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, Methods, Approaches and Impact Assessment,
- Targeted Policies, Programmes and Projects for Poverty Reduction in Asian Countries
- Capacity Building of Rural Development Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes
- Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects
- Micro-enterprise, Micro-finance and Marketing of Rural Products (3-M Model)
- Results and Impact Management Systems (RIMS) for M&E Staff of IFAD Supported Projects in South Asia

Focused Areas

Decentralization
Good Governance
Project Planning
GIS and ICT Applications for RD
Participatory Community Development
Watershed Management
M&E
Micro-Credit etc.

Box : The success Stories of CIRDAP–SOCSEA Training Programme
The Success of Ralegansiddhi



H.E. Veena Sikri (R), High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, awarding certificates to the participants of the CIRDAP-BIRD programme

Training Division

The Training Division organizes and implements training programmes for the rural development functionaries of CIRDAP member countries. In doing so, this division meets the learning needs and priorities of the countries. It offers training management services by assisting member and non-member countries and regional and international development partners in designing and managing their training requirements. The division has four types of programmes viz., regional programmes, in-country programmes, training-cum-exposure visits and regional seminars/workshops/ symposiums.

Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-finance in Bangladesh

Officials from India and Sri Lanka

A programme was held during 14-21 January 2005 in which 19 officials from India and 6 from Sri Lanka attended. The Indian group was facilitated by Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India while the other group from Sri Lanka was facilitated by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and HARTI, Colombo. Most of the participants were drawn from the micro-credit departments/ institutions of the two countries.



The programme was inaugurated by H.E. Mohammad Beheshti Monfared, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangladesh at CIRDAP Headquarters. H.E. in his inaugural speech, mentioned the hardship being faced by the rural people both in terms of the infrastructure and livelihoods that have resulted in a massive migration to cities. Having recognised the role of CIRDAP, he mentioned that Iran has become member of CIRDAP family hoping to contribute to the advancement of rural development in Iran, and the whole of the region, through partnerships. Further, the ambassador informed that in Iran, under the inspiration of revolution, rural development was initiated through people's mobilisation and subsequently it was institutionalised in the form of a separate Ministry. He desired cooperation in spheres of rural development and regional integration. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General while welcoming the Ambassador of Iran, described in detail the contribution of exchange programmes for enhancing regional cooperation. He felt that apart from India and Sri Lanka, Iran could also benefit by taking the successful experiences of other countries in the region.

The programme consisted of a mix of concepts, strategies, policies and programmes on micro-finance and field activities, mostly concerned with Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA, and BURO Tangail in Bangladesh. The participants visited several villages to study and learn the working of micro-finance groups/self-help groups of women. The participants were briefed on activities undertaken by a local NGO viz. Anando, and visited their project villages. The participants were briefed on the facilitating role of PKSf in Bangladesh by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, who also graced the valedictory function as the chief guest. The programme ended with Dr. Salehuddin distributing the certificates to the participants.

Second Team of Indian Officials

The second training-cum-exposure visit, under the sponsorship of Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India, for the Indian officials was organised during 6-11 February 2005. Sixteen officials from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, UP, and Gujrat, along with two faculty members of BIRD participated in the visit programme. It was inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. DG mentioned that these types of visit programmes would help exchange notes on the village development projects and micro-credit institutions. He referred to the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) in Comilla to drive home the point that the project needs to cross from one threshold to another, so that organised groups can move from primary to secondary stages of development. Since the Grameen Bank model has become an international model for women empowerment and poverty alleviation, he suggested the participants to observe the things closely and get their doubts cleared during their interaction with village groups and officials of MFIs. The participants visited villages around Comilla and saw micro-credit operations of Grameen Bank, BRAC, and ASA. The CVDP, being implemented by BARD was also visited. H.E. Ms. Veena Sikri, High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh was the chief guest at the valedictory function. She awarded certificates to the participants.

In-country Training Programmes

Programme at Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) at Jakarta, Indonesia, has organised a training programme on Marketing Management of Small and Medium Enterprises on 14-17 February 2005, with funding support from CIRDAP Headquarters. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, participated in the programme. The programme was organised by SOCSEA faculty in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry (Regional Office). It was attended by 20 participants, including some women entrepreneurs who are doing their business successfully. The inaugural programme was held at the Governor's office in Yogyakarta Province. DG, CIRDAP inaugurated the function. As a part of the programme, DG and Director Training, CIRDAP, along with Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head of SOCSEA and Mr. Muhammad Ischak, Asst. to the Head of SOCSEA, visited some successful business enterprises whose managers had participated in the previously held CIRDAP/SOCSEA training programmes.



This particular programme dealt with various strategies for expanding markets of rural enterprises comprehensively and continuing on the successful experiences in handicrafts, tourist materials, food items, etc. Since the location is of historical importance and has a world known tourist centre (Boroguduru and Putrajaya), the need for training in marketing was a felt-need. In this respect

SOCSEA has emerged as a National Centre of Training, supported by the regional office of Industry and Trade. The development of industry and trade in the special province of Yogyakarta and the training programme offered on Marketing Management by SOCSEA is expected to tap the enormous potential of the region, including the institutional strengths.

THE SUCCESS STORIES OF CIRDAP-SOCSEA TRAINING PROGRAMME

I. BAKPIA PATHUK 75

The famous traditional cake/snack in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) Yogyakarta called Bakpia with its trade mark BAKPIA PATHUK 75 is a successful small enterprise. There are more than ten in Yogyakarta producing Bakpia. The Bakpia Pathuk 75 was started in 1948, as a home industry run by Mr. Liem's family located in Jalan Dagen, Yogyakarta. The family used to produce various kinds of traditional cakes, one of them is bakpia. People around Yogyakarta used to come to Jalan Dagen (Dagen Street) to buy bakpia. The bakpia and other cakes were also sold in the nearby villages.

In 1955 Mr. Liem's family moved to a new house located in Pathuk area, Yogyakarta. That was the beginning of using the trade mark BAKPIA PATHUK 75. After the death of Mr. Liem in 1971, the cakes business of Bakpia Pathuk 75 was continued by Mr. Yeni Susanto, the son of Mr. Liem. Since then Mr. Yeni employed 3 more workers to cater to the increased demand of Bakpia Pathuk 75. In an effort to improve income and the quality of Bakpia Pathuk, Mrs. Wenny Yuningsih, (wife of Mr. Yeni) who is also responsible for the day-to-day operations, participated in Training Programmes on Management of Small and Non-Formal Industry and Training on Improvement of Marketing Management of Small and Medium Industry organised by CIRDAP/SOCSEA in association with the Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Service, Yogyakarta Province.

Having gained know-how and skill from her participation, Mrs. Wenny has been able to improve the quality and the packaging of the product and enhance the income in spite of competition from similar products. This statement of fact has been expressed by Mrs. Wenny during the visit of Director General, CIRDAP to the branch enterprise of Bakpia Pathuk 75 located in Jalan H.O.S. Cokroaminoto 119 B, Yogyakarta recently. Touching on its technical aspect, Bakpia 75 is a traditional cake in Yogyakarta made from wheat flour mixed with grinded green peas and palm sugar and baked in the oven. At present it employs 16 male workers and 17 female workers. It produces 5600 pieces of Bakpia Pathuk a day marketed locally and other regencies, and demand is in excess of supply.



Factory workers producing various handcrafts

II. WIDA FLORIST

Another successful enterprise called WIDA FLORIST produces various handicrafts. Established in 1995 by Mrs Dwi Widayati while she was a student. The handicrafts were marketed initially through various department stores and super markets in Yogyakarta. After graduating, she expanded her business and established a permanent workshop/store located in Jalan C. Simanjuntak 178 and employed four workers as handicraft specialists. As a strategy to enlarge her business, she started organising exhibitions in various places viz. Yogyakarta, Bali and Surabaya.

She also participated in national exhibitions organised by various government institutions and organisations in Jakarta, Bandung and Palembang. In 2000, the second workshop/handicraft centre of Wida Florist was established in Jalan Monjali 138, Yogyakarta. In an effort to further improve the quality, develop business, enhance income from her enterprise, she and her husband participated in a Training Programme on Production of Craft Paper and Recycling Paper. The training programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA in collaboration with the Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Service, Yogyakarta helped her to improve the quality of the product and also her business.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, had an opportunity, during their visit, to talk to Mrs. Dwi Widayati and her husband on their successful venture. At present 5000 pieces of handicrafts are produced everyday, with various designs employing six male workers and two female exhibition specialists. The products of Wida Florist are being sold in Yogyakarta, Jakarta, Palembang, Balikpapan and Riau and exported to Italy, France, Malaysia and Singapore.

Programme at HARTI, Sri Lanka

The second In-country Training Programme on Planning and Management of Rural Country Development Projects was organised at HARTI, Colombo, on 14-17 March 2005. It was partially funded by CIRDAP as part of its on-going in-country training activity. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Tissa Warnasuriya, the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka, and presided over by Mr. D.G.P. Seneviratne, Director, HARTI. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, briefed on the new thinking emerging in the field of rural development and CIRDAP's efforts in promoting people's participation.



Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao addressing the inaugural function of the training while Mr. D. G. P. Seneviratne (C) and Mr. Tissa Warnasuriya (R) looks on

Twenty-six participants, from various organisations in Sri Lanka, including Samurddhi attended the programme. Intensive field visits to villages of Anuradhapura were undertaken to practise participatory techniques. The participants were given knowledge inputs like the situation analysis, problem analysis, alternative analysis, programme strategy and plan of operation. The logical framework was analysed and project planning matrix for villages prepared by participants. The project design matrix (PDM) prepared in association with the general assembly of the village may be of use to the local administrators, for implementation.

The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao along with Mr. J.K.M.D. Chandrasiri, Course Director. The Deputy Director, HARTI, thanked CIRDAP for its financial support. The participants also expressed their appreciation for the programme organised by HARTI in association with CIRDAP. The programme ended with distribution of certificates among the successful participants.

Programme at CARTC, Myanmar

The third In-country Training Programme on Rapid Rural Appraisal for Rural Development Planning was held at the Central Agricultural Research and Training Centre (CARTC), Hlegue, Myanmar from 9 to 12 May, 2005. It was inaugurated by Dr. Toe Aung, Acting Director General, Department of Agricultural Planning (DAP), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI). Mr. Than Aye, General Manager, Myanma Agriculture Service (MAS), Mr. U Thinn Aung, Deputy General Manager/ Principal CARTC, Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP and Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Programme Officer-Training, CIRDAP and other officials from CARTC, DAP and MoAI attended the programme.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Toe Aung mentioned the importance of agriculture which contributes more than 40 per cent of GDP, with 25 per cent of exports of Myanmar. About 70 per cent of population live in the rural area. He said that considerable progress was achieved in socio-economic and infrastructural development of the rural areas, but some more efforts are required in order to sustain the progress. In this direction, the present course was designed in the right direction to develop the skills of the functionaries of different line departments. He thanked CIRDAP for the support extended to the Government of Myanmar.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao briefly mentioned about the importance of the participatory approaches, tools and techniques in planning and development of the community-based projects for social and economic development of the rural areas. He mentioned the efforts of CIRDAP in introducing various kinds of participatory rural development planning and management initiatives, especially CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD).

The programme was both theoretical as well as practical. Application of tools on participatory approaches, include: Project Planning Methodologies, PRA/RRA, concept of project cycle management (PCM) and its application for participatory planning, logical framework analysis (PDM/PPM) were covered. A total of 29 participants representing various departments including departments under MoI from all over the country took part in the programme activities. The lecture sessions included: situation analysis, objective analysis, analysis of alternatives, description of programme strategy together with the data collection methods.

Participants were divided into four groups and were assigned with the practical tasks of preparing problem tree, objective tree, alternative analysis, resource mapping, and social mapping, etc.

The participants were taken to a nearby village to do the exercises with the participation of the local villagers. After the field exercises, the participants presented various charts, maps, tables, etc. with the help of a logical frame and the project designing matrix. In the valedictory session held on the last day, certificates were distributed among the participants.

Regional Programmes

Government of India under its grant-in-aid programme to CIRDAP has been sponsoring regional training programmes to help CIRDAP member countries in Asia and Pacific for the last many years to exchange experiences between them and learn from each other's experiences. These programmes are also organised as an initiative to support the capacity building efforts of Asian region through knowledge dissemination, sharing of expertise/experiences of India with member countries for networking, future collaboration in rural development efforts of member countries and to create better institutional and governmental linkages in the region to fulfil the mandate for poverty reduction and enhance regional cooperation. In the year 2005, Government of India earmarked a total amount of US\$2,12,400 approximately to organise five regional programmes (three in India and one each in Indonesia and Vietnam).

Geographic Information System and Information Technology Applications for Rural Development

The first programme on Regional Training Programme on Geographic Information System (GIS) and IT (Information Technology) Applications for Rural Development was held at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India on 06-18 June 2005. A total of 24 officials sponsored by Governments from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the programme.

Background

In the Asia-Pacific region, poverty alleviation requires proper integration of human, management of physical and natural resources, technological and institutional interventions to ensure sustainability in framing the rural development policies and programmes. In this regard, information sharing on the latest development tools and techniques like GIS and IT for rural resource development and capacity building has a potential role to play in promoting resource productivity for sustainable development and good governance.

GIS has emerged as an effective tool in designing rural development programmes with focus on sustainable poverty reduction and environmental conservation in Asian countries including India. The recent trend shows a move towards convergence of Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System, Global Positioning System, and related communication technologies to better manage the natural resources including environment for achieving social goals. With rapid advancement, GIS and other technologies have helped effectively in getting accurate data necessary for designing policies and programmes.

Likewise, the development in IT sector and its application to rural development in India is enormous. India is surging ahead in this region to bring IT to the doorsteps of villagers/farmers. In this way, community marketing, information villages, wired programmes that provide agricultural, medical, educational information etc. are some of examples that encourage rural entrepreneurs to move forward and to integrate themselves into the new market approach in an era of globalisation.



Group photograph of the participants at GIS and IT training programme at NIRD

Objectives

- To examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in rural development, natural resource management and environment in the countries of the region; to review current use of the GIS and IT in rural development; and to identify the potential areas where the GIS and IT related applications can play an effective role.
- To promote effective networking among the relevant institutions in the countries of the region; and to address common rural development issues and promote information sharing for South-South cooperation.
- To present case studies on application of the GIS and IT in specific areas for dissemination at the regional level; and
- To strengthen capacity building efforts of member countries through training so as to accelerate rural development and poverty reduction in the region to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Several field visits were organised at Hyderabad and Bangalore. At Hyderabad the participants were taken to one of 43 E-Seva centres of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. It is a one-stop-shop for a range of citizen-friendly services. E-Seva offers citizens a wide range of services under one roof such as payment of utility bills, issuance of certificates and licences, information and reservation of ticket for travel and tourism and Business-Citizen transactions (B2C) services. Presently these E-Seva centres (with over 350 service counters spread over the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad in the state of Andhra Pradesh) serving about 35,000 citizens on an average per day.

The experience of interacting with government is always seen as a frustrating chore in India. E-Seva is revolutionising the way the government does business and increasing customer expectations for service. The citizens are now empowered by the ready access to information and have greater access and entrée to government services than ever before. At Bangalore the participants were taken

to Government of Karnataka Secretariat, where Mr. Rajiv Chawla, Secretary, E-Governance Section, Government of Karnataka briefly highlighted the IT activities of Karnataka Government. He mentioned that the path to achieving effective E-Govt. is a long and difficult one. It will require focused political will, a change of mindset at all levels, administrative dedication, a strategic partnership with the private sector and participation of citizens as stakeholders.

The participants visited the Taluk Office of Bangalore South to see the computerised land record system of the Government of Karnataka. Land is arguably the single largest source of dispute, litigation and violence in India. Manual maintenance of land records provides more than ample scope for tampering, manipulation, harassment and exploitation by strongly entrenched vested interests. The worst sufferers are the marginal and small farmers. To implement the Bhoomi programme, the government machinery was totally ignorant of computers and IT, and people having their vested interests in the manual system were reluctant and showed their resistance to change. Predictably, there were political and operational impediments, but given the clear goal of seeing the project to completion, each of them was effectively resolved. The Chief Minister of the State was in constant communication with the District Commissioners. Manual records were declared invalid and the law was amended to provide for the new system.

The participants visited Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Cardiac Sciences at Bangalore to observe the telemedicine programme of the hospital. Participants were also taken to Azim Premji Foundation (APF) office at Bangalore. APF is operational since 2001. It has 135 plus full time professionals and 600 plus staff based at field-project. APF was chosen to visit mainly because of their computerised primary education programme. A briefing session was organised showing how APF works in the rural areas for educating rural children through the use of computer. After briefing session the participants were taken to a village primary school where small children are getting education by using computer applications.

Since India is advanced in space technology, participants were also taken to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore. Dr. Hedge briefed the participants about how ISRO works for the development of both rural and urban areas.

Conclusion

The valedictory session of the training programme was held on 17 June 2005 at NIRD, Hyderabad. Dr. C. Krishna Gopal briefed about the objectives of the training programme and visits to different institutions. Some participants commented on the organisation of the training programme and the knowledge and information they learnt. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, in his speech welcomed the Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia and Head of SOCSEA, Jakarta. He thanked NIRD programme directors and faculty members for successfully organising the training programme. He also urged them to help and guide for organising more training programmes in other CIRDAP member countries.

Mr. Progo Nurdjaman, Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia, gave the valedictory address and awarded certificates to the participants.

Poverty Focused Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, Methods, Approaches and Impact Assessment

As the Rural Development concerns are generally related to sustainable rural livelihoods, quality of life, quality of growth and achieving the MDGs, almost all donor agencies have developed their own tools, methods and focus, relevant to monitoring and evaluation (M&E). In the context of achieving the MDGs, the role of monitoring and evaluation (in its various forms and methods) has become an important aspect of national policy.

With a funding support under grants in aid to CIRDAP by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for the year 2005, CIRDAP organised the training programme on 'Poverty Focused Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, Methods, Approaches and Impact Assessment' during 16-25 August 2005, at Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA), Pune, India. This trainers' training programme for CIRDAP member countries was organised in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD).

The ultimate objective was to provide better means of learning for improving service delivery, planning and allocation of resources and demonstrating accountability to key stake holders.

Nineteen participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the training programme. Resource persons were drawn from NIRD, CIRDAP and renowned academics in India to cover the broad topics of the training programme.

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. The inaugural session also included a welcome address by Dr. S.V. Rangacharyulu, Professor and Head, Centre for Information Technology and Quantitative Techniques (CITQT), NIRD. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, briefed the participants about the background of the training programme. Mr. Achmad Rofi'ie, participant from Indonesia proposed a vote of thanks.



Group photograph of participants of the training programme in Pune, India

The inaugural session was followed by an ice-breaking session conducted by Dr. G. Rajani Kanth, Assistant Professor, NIRD, Hyderabad. After the ice-breaking session, participants presented their country reports. Subsequently other regular sessions were held as per the programme schedule.

The topics were Poverty and Human Development Issues in CIRDAP Countries followed by discussions; Planning Evaluation Studies; Project Cycle: Concept, Components, Evaluation Tools and Indicators - MIS; IFAD Approach-Result and Impact Management System (RIMS); Log-frame-A tool for Monitoring and Evaluation; Sampling Designs for Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects : Identification of Poor through Participatory Approaches-A case of 'Velugu' Project in AP, India; Participatory Planning and Development: Concept and Practices; Assessment of Impact of anti-poverty Programmes-Indian Experiences; Participatory Approaches for M&E of Poverty Alleviation Programmes; GIS and Remote Sensing Applications for Resource Evaluation and Poverty Alleviation; Participatory Approaches for M&E of Poverty Alleviation Programmes (Practical exercises); and Self-Employment Programmes-Indian Experience.

As a component of the training programme, the participants were taken on a field visit to Ralegansiddhi Village of Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra (see box), where the rural prosperity through watershed approaches and other social interactions made possible by a social activist, Mr. Anna Hazare.

At the end of the 10-day training programme, valedictory session was held on 25 August 2005. Dr. S.V. Rangacharyulu, Course Director, briefly mentioned about the organisation of the training programme. As far as the content of the training programme, he said that NIRD and CIRDAP tried their best to cover the latest skills and techniques of monitoring and evaluation of poverty-focused projects. He was satisfied with the services provided by YASHADA during the organisation of the programme.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, in his address mentioned that with the grants-in-aid support CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD is organising training programmes for sharing experiences between CIRDAP member countries of Asia and the Pacific since 2003. He informed that in year 2005 CIRDAP is organising five training programmes and out of which one was held at NIRD, which implies that CIRDAP is also interested in the capacity building of state institutions. CIRDAP is happy that YASHADA has joined hand with NIRD and CIRDAP on the mission of poverty alleviation and hoped this collaboration will continue in future, he further said.

Course completion certificates were awarded to the participants by the Chief Guest of the valedictory session, Ms. Meeta Rajivlochan, IAS, Deputy Director General, YASHADA.

Targeted Policies, Programmes and Projects for Poverty Reduction in Asian Countries

The NIRD-CIRDAP International collaborative training course on 'Targeted Policies, Programmes and Projects for Poverty Reduction in Asian Countries' was organised in Hanoi, Vietnam in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Govt. of Vietnam, from October 24th to November 2, 2005. Sixteen Senior Rural Development Officials representing the CIRDAP member countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, participated in the programme. The Vice Minister for MARD, Vietnam, Mr. Bui Ba Bong inaugurated the programme.

He thanked the Indian Government, NIRD and CIRDAP for choosing the MARD as a partner in the progress of the member country training endeavours. The Director General and Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, MARD, Government of Vietnam, Mr. La Van Ly and Mrs. Chu Thi Hao, delivered the Guests of Honour address in the inaugural function.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, referred to the emerging development scenarios in the CIRDAP member countries and urged the participants to benefit from the insights the course would offer.

Dr. P. Durgaprasad, Prof. and Head, CHRD, NIRD and Course Director, and Dr. B. Sudhakara Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, welcomed the participants and presented the design of the course.

The core course content included the Millennium Development Goals; Strategies, Programmes and Projects related to Poverty Alleviation; Participatory Development Perspectives and Interventions; People's Participation and Community Development; Gender Equality and Women Empowerment; Rural Industrialisation; Micro-enterprises and Rural Entrepreneurship; Livelihoods Analysis; Project Management; Social Sector Development; Participatory Research and Training Tools; Development Partnerships and Networks. Handicrafts and Eco-tourism for Rural Development comprised the core components of guided field visits.

The participants were taken to two villages and had detailed presentations by the commune leaders on the programmes and projects taken up in various sectoral activities. The classroom and field visit related training inputs were offered through a variety of training methods including 'hands on PRI sessions' and case studies. Group discussions and sub-group presentations comprised the other methods. The participants had a close look at the development taking place in the rural side of Vietnam, on way to the world heritage site at Halong Bay.

The valedictory session was graced by His Excellency N. Ravi, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, Ms. Chu Thi Hao and Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head of the Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA), Jakarta, Indonesia.



Group photograph of participants, Hanoi, Vietnam

The Success of Ralegansiddhi

Ralegansiddhi is a village in Parner Taluka of Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra. The geographical area of the village is about 970 ha. It is situated in a drought-prone area having scanty rainfall measuring between 450mm (9") to 650mm (13"). Twenty-five years back, it was a dying village due to shortage of water. Efforts of villagers under the able leadership of Mr. Anna Hajare, the village has transformed it into a self-supporting evergreen patch of agricultural land.

The village has undulating shallow topography. Due to appropriate design and construction of water and soil conservation systems, the water table has been raised. This made perennial cycles of agricultural crops possible.

Twenty-five years back, cultivating two crops per year was virtually impossible in the village. Villagers used to leave the village for seeking jobs outside. The same arid area of Village Ralegan Siddhi is now converted into a beautiful green valley after the development of water and soil conservation structures. The geographical area of the village was divided in four watershed zones. The progress was based on four main aspects, viz. afforestation, soil conservation, water conservation and improved agriculture practices. Many water bodies were formed in the main and secondary valley lines. Now the hill slopes have vegetative cover of fodder and trees. The number of wells almost tripled and most of the arid land was converted into cultivating land by using techniques such as bunding and lift irrigation.

The architect of this model village, Mr. Anna Hajare, undertook the renovation of this 'Yadavbaba' temple from his provident fund. He thought that temples are very convenient and impersonal places for confidence building for spiritual and social development. Now it has become the nerve centre of the village. The Gram Panchayat assembles and takes all the important decisions in this temple. The village has Gram-Sabha (village assembly) which is the heart of the development process. It works as the assembly, planning commission, executive body and legal body of the village. All the cooperative ideas are conceived, finalised and executed through planning in Gram-Sabha. Active committees such as user group, self-help group are formed here. It is the venue for discussions on important issues such as water management, rotation of crops, bore-well control. Village of Ralegansiddhi derived major benefits from this system.

Ralegansiddhi is such a successful project that it has become a model development venture. Throughout the year many groups visit Ralegansiddhi. As a part of social engineering, Mr. Anna Hajare participates in taking the visitors around the village to show the highlights of the developments.

The village has built a basic facility for the education of the next generation of the village. The villagers have built this huge school building by 'Shramadaan' (contribution of free labour by the villagers). The school believes that education means *Shram-sanskar*, *Bala-sanskar*, *Deshprem*, Character Building and *Pradnya Vikas*.

Ralegansiddhi has become a source of inspiration for the entire India. A separate training centre along with hostel facilities has been developed in the village. The training centre has a well established teaching facilities and other infrastructure. The aim of the training centre is to develop Head, Hand, Heart, Knowledge, Skill and Attitude. The entire development of the village has fetched a number of state level and national awards.

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

CIRDAP with a funding support under grants-in-aid by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) organised an international training programme on 'Capacity Building of Rural Development Functionaries for Various Anti-Poverty Programmes' at NIRD, Hyderabad, India from 14 to 26 November, 2005. The programme started with a brief introduction of CIRDAP's activities for regional cooperation and the new vision document of CIRDAP that gave stress on capacity building of its members, by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director, Training, CIRDAP.



A view of the training session

The objectives of the programme were; i) to enable rural development functionaries to acquire knowledge and insights on the operations of anti-poverty programme/rural development programmes in India; ii) to provide participants with the opportunity to exchange views and information and share experience among the CIRDAP member countries with project implementors and beneficiaries of these programme; iii) to understand the need for community participation and capacity building in anti-poverty programme; and iv) to expose them to the application of techniques such as participatory rural appraisal, impact assessment, geographical information systems, etc. The ultimate goal of the programme was to impress upon the participants some of the innovative anti-poverty schemes used to address rural poverty which they may emulate in their own local situation and requirements. A total of 19 senior and mid-level officers representing from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the programme.

A number of important issues were discussed during the programme. These include: Capacity Building: Concept and Approaches; Case Study on Training Need Assessment for the Capacity Building of the Rural Development; Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Gender in Development and Case Discussions; Poverty Scenario in CIRDAP Countries; Participatory Approaches to Development; Participatory Methods and Participatory Planning; Participatory Poverty Needs Assessment: A case Study; Participatory Implementation of Community Projects; Case

Discussions on Participatory Implementation; Stakeholders' Analysis and Logical Framework Analysis; Participatory Decentralised Governance; Video Conferencing; Participatory M&E Concept and Approaches; Case Discussions on Participatory Watershed Management; Rights Based Approach to Development; Application of Remote Sensing and GIS in Natural Resource Management etc.

The participants were taken to Bangalore on a field visit to study, observe, understand and learn the operation of selected best practices in Bangalore. They visited Narayana Hridalaya on Telemedicine, Quality Primary Education through computer application in Premji Foundation, etc and also had first-hand knowledge of the successful project in Mysore. The study visits were coordinated by Dr. H S Ashokanand, Director, SIRD, Mysore.

The valedictory session was held on 26 November, 2005. Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, chaired the session. In his concluding speech DG, CIRDAP thanked the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development for funding the programme and DG/DDG, NIRD for facilitating implementation of the training project.

Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects

The NIRD-CIRDAP in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and Non-Aligned Movement-Centre for South South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) organised a regional training programme (Asia and the Pacific) on 'Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects' at NAM-CSSTC Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia from 5 to 14 December 2005. Eighteen senior and mid-level officials from all the CMCs namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, attended the training programme.



Inauguration of the training programme in Bandung

Mr. Progo Nurdjaman, Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of Indonesia inaugurated the programme at NAM-CSSTC Centre. The inauguration function was attended, among others, by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP, Ms. Linggowaty Hakim, Director

General, NAM-CSSTC, Dr. Ranjana Gupta, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Dr. B.K. Thapliyal, Professor and Head, NIRD, Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP. The programme was organised with the funding support from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

In his inaugural speech, DG, CIRDAP, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal thanked the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development for providing financial and technical support in organising the regional programmes for the CMCs. He mentioned that the participants of the various programmes held earlier, in their comments and feedback have found these regional programmes useful and beneficial for them and their countries as well.

Ms. Linggawaty Hakim, Director, NAM CSSTC, in her address said that the NAM-CSSTC had conducted a number of programmes with institutions under triangular cooperation. Speaking about the present course, she mentioned that it is a reflection of the Centre's shared commitment in enhancing the capacity of developing countries through South-South cooperation.

The core course contents included Micro-level Planning: Concepts and Practice; Project Identification, Project Cycle, Participatory Project Planning and Implementation; Macro-Micro Linkages in Project Planning; Logical Framework Approach-Project Planning, Project Appraisal (Economic, Cost-benefit, NPV, IRR, etc.); GIS and Watershed Planning-A Case from India; Gender in Development; Planning and implementation of Country-Based Projects; Preparation for Project Analysis, Introducing PRA/RRA; Planning with People; Introducing PPCM/PDM; Network Analysis for Project Planning; Empowering Women for Better Resource Management: A case of Self-help Groups; Community Information and Planning System (CIPS); Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation; Participatory Self-Monitoring System-A Case of Rural Credit Project; Guidelines for Project Preparation etc.

The participants were taken to Bandung 200 km away from Jakarta for the field visit exercise. The participants were also taken to a village to learn and observe the real situation in the field. In the village Sangkanhurip, participants were given a brief by the village head on the formation and working of the self-help group in economic and social development of the village Sangkanhurip.

The training programme was a blend of classroom and field visit related training inputs offered through a variety of participatory methods and techniques including 'hands-on PRA/RRA sessions'. Case studies, Brain-storming sessions, group discussions and sub-group presentations were the other methods of learning and experience sharing besides the country presentations. The course was directed by Dr. B.K. Thapliyal and Dr. R.R. Hermon of NIRD and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao and Mr. Agung Mulyana of CIRDAP. The entire facilitation and logistic support was provided by SOCSEA and NAM CSSTC. Apart from resource persons from India, Dr. Ranjana Gupta (MORD, India), Dr. Rajakutty (NIRD), and Dr. S. C. Srivastava (NIRD) made their contributions. The local resource persons included Mr. Iskandar, Deputy for Economic and Business Development, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Executing Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR), Lueng Bata-Banda Aceh; Mr. Arwan E. Surbakti, Director of Institution and Training Community, Directorate General, Community and Village Empowerment (DGCVE); Dr. Sulikanti Agusni, State Ministry of Women Empowerment, Republic of Indonesia; Ms. Moe Thuzer of ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. The programme was concluded on 14 December 2005 with Dr. Thapliyal and Mr. Agung Mulyana in the chair.

Micro-enterprise, Micro-finance and Marketing of Rural Products (3-M Model)

Consequent upon a Memorandum of Understanding between CIRDAP and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, a training programme on 'Micro-enterprise, Micro-finance and Marketing of Rural Products' was held at Yogyakarta, Indonesia between 1-6 August 2005. The programme was jointly organised by NAM CSSTC, SOCSEA and CIRDAP, and was attended by 18 officials from CIRDAP/NAM member countries. The countries represented were Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The programme was held at the Sahid Raya Hotel in Yogyakarta. The inaugural session was attended by Ms. Linggawaty Hakim, Director of NAM CSSTC, Mr. N.T. Dammen, Head of Agency for Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Indonesia, Mr. Paduka Sri Paku Alam, Vice-Government of DIY, and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP. Dr. Chukka Kondaiah, Principal Director of NISIET, India attended the programme as a resource person.

The programme covered various topics such as BOP Markets, Building Women Entrepreneurship, Market Imperatives and Micro-credit and Micro-enterprises, Grameen Bank and other Micro-credit models, Agricultural Marketing and Various Issues of Concern in integrating the 3-M. Country representatives presented their respective country papers which were followed by discussions. As part of the field work, the participants were taken to study a marketing enterprise in a village. Several behavioural inputs including self-analysis, transaction analysis, exercises, video films etc. formed part of the training programme. The participants also visited some historic sites like Sultan Palace, Prambanan temple complex and Borobudur Temple, a known world heritage site.

During the programme, the participants were divided into three groups on 3M (Micro-finance, Micro-credit and Marketing) separately and three reports prepared by them were discussed and presented. Some of the suggestions from group discussions are:

- There is a need to have an intermediary institution for strengthening the capacity of entrepreneurs to aggressively market the products and accessing financial resources;
- Training for human resource development in enhancing the marketability of products through pricing, packaging and branding inputs;
- Financial institutions should be convinced to promote micro-finance systems;
- Strengthening and developing partnerships between various government agencies, private firms, cooperatives, etc. for production and marketing of rural products;



Participants of the programme

- Strengthening sustainability of micro-finance institutions through building the capacity of micro-finance institutions (MFIs), ensuring good governance and accountability and promoting use of information and communication technology and commercial viability.

The programme concluded with a valedictory function, attended by the Special Assistant to the Minister for Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia, Ms. Linggawaty Hakim, Director, NAM CSS'TC, Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, Dr. Chukka Kondaiah, Principal Director, NISIET, Hyderabad, India, and Mr. Agung Mulaya, Head of SOCSEA. The participant from Philippines proposed a vote of thanks. Certificates were distributed to the participants by the Chief Guest.

Results and Impact Management Systems for M&E Staff of IFAD-Supported Projects in South Asia

As per the requirement of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, CIRDAP trained their staff in undertaking indicator assessment as a part of IFAD's new methodology-RIMS (Results and Impact Management System). This programme at CIRDAP is especially designed on two anchor indicators- (i) change in household assets, and (ii) change in child nutrition. All IFAD projects will have to measure these two indicators at start-up, at mid-term and at project completion, using an identical methodology, which is the prime subject in CIRDAP's training. Questionnaires have been tested in Senegal and the methodology for assessing malnutrition are already available (Anthropometry). The CIRDAP training is to explain how to analyse the data and to ensure high quality RIMS indicators data can be produced by all participating projects in 2005.

The training programme on 11-14 July 2005 was designed to build capacity of the M&E staff of IFAD-assisted projects in South Asia and to achieve the following objectives:

- To orient the IFAD project participants to IFAD's Results and Impact Management System (RIMS);
- To enable the participants to undertake required RIMS surveys using the impact indicator assessment tools;
- To provide the participants with the guidelines and procedures on data analysis to ensure quality RIMS outputs; and
- To develop the regional capacity of CIRDAP to enable future need based RIMS training for projects in IFAD's South Asia Portfolio.

A total of 30 participants mainly project monitoring and evaluation staff of all 15 IFAD-assisted projects in south Asia, namely, Bangladesh (3), Nepal (2), Pakistan (3), Sri Lanka (2), India (4) and Bhutan (1) attended the programme.

The programme was mainly divided into two parts-theoretical orientation, i.e. lecture-cum-presentations and practicals such as hands-on experiences in group work assignments with presentation and practical exercises in the village and converting the data into the reports using the IFAD-prepared software in the laboratory. The sessions conducted by two IFAD experts-Mr. Roland Hartman and Dr. Eric Weiss, and three other resource persons-Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, Dr. S.V. Rangacharyulu from NIRD and Mr. Arif Rashid, an IFAD consultant to MITRA and Associates, Bangladesh. The experts covered all the important issues such as IFAD framework for results managed logical framework for IFAD's lending programme, introduction to RIMS, and M&E RIMS anchor indicators of impact, principles of sampling, etc.

A simple but very impressive inaugural function was held on 11 July 2005. This was chaired by H.E. Mr. Dasho Jigme Tshultim, Ambassador of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Dhaka, as Chief Guest. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP, Mr. Ronald Hartman of IFAD and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao spoke at the inaugural function.

In his inaugural address, the Ambassador praised both CIRDAP and IFAD for their joint effort in organising training programme for the M&E Staff.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal welcomed the delegates and participants in this collaborative training programme with IFAD. He expressed his sincere thanks to IFAD in selecting CIRDAP as a venue for organising training programme on the subject of importance for project implementation.

Mr. Ronald Hartman from IFAD welcomed the participants. He said that it is a great opportunity for the participants to exchange views with each other about the IFAD projects, particularly in the developing countries. He highlighted the salient features of RIMS, its importance in M&E of IFAD-supported projects. He mentioned the commitment of IFAD towards MDGs. He urged the participants to share their experiences, for the benefit of all.

Dr. Rao briefed the participants about the training programme. He explained the background of the joint collaborative activities of IFAD and CIRDAP in preparing for capacity building of IFAD and projects in South Asia. The present course, he said, is another initiative by the two organisations to address the issue of monitoring and evaluation and RIMS developed by IFAD experts. As a part of pretesting the questionnaires.

A field visit was arranged to the village Khagdahor Moddopara, Union Khagdahor, Mymensingh.

For the field exercise, the participants were divided into four groups and taken to the different community halls of the village where they met the village community and inter-viewed the identified households. Through the interview the participants collected data and put on relevant columns of the IFAD Questionnaires. They also finished their exercises of measuring the height and weight of the targeted children brought to the community centres by their parents. This was done by using the standard Uniscales and height machines. The data collected were transferred in the lab by using the IFAD software.



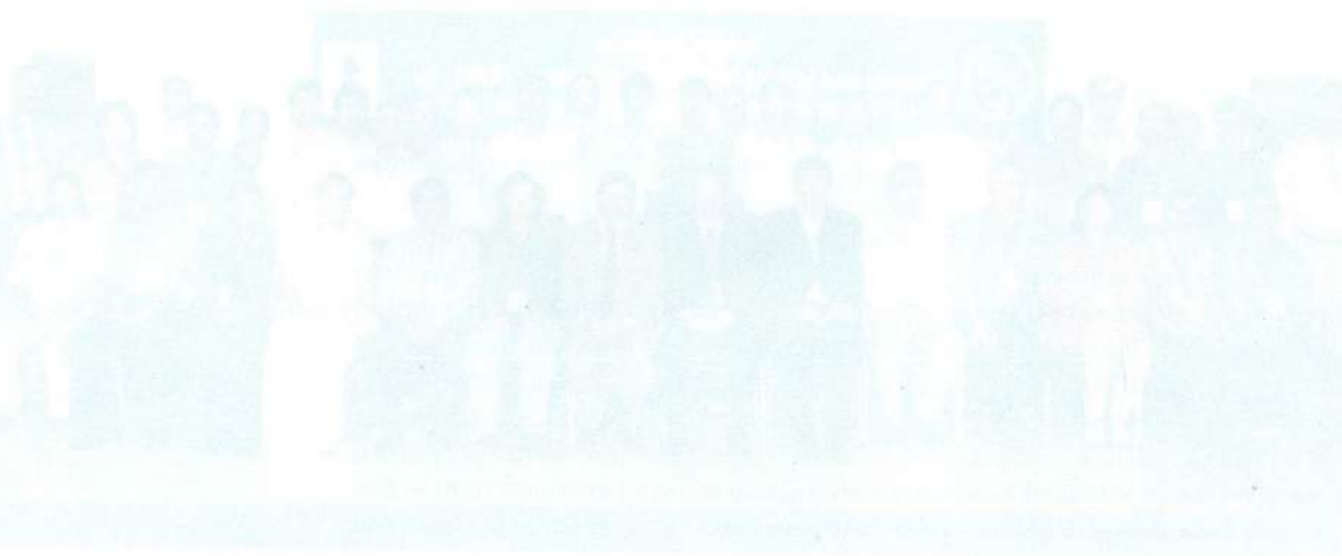
Group photograph of participants with the Chief Guest

The concluding session of programme was held on 14 July 2005 with Mr. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Government of Bangladesh, in the chair. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Mr. Ronald Hartman, Mr. Eric Weiss and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, were also present.

In his address, Mr. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury said that rural development programmes vary from country to country in line with country perspective. In a country there are backward and forward sections. So, programme should be designed in a planned way to make balance and ensure desired progress.

Dr. Paudyal in his address, welcomed the presence of Secretary. He lauded the efforts and cooperation of IFAD in organising the workshop. He hoped that more programmes would be forthcoming in future. He requested the participants for possible dissemination of the acquired knowledge and information and implementing them in their respective project/s.

The Chief Guest distributed the certificates among the successful participants.

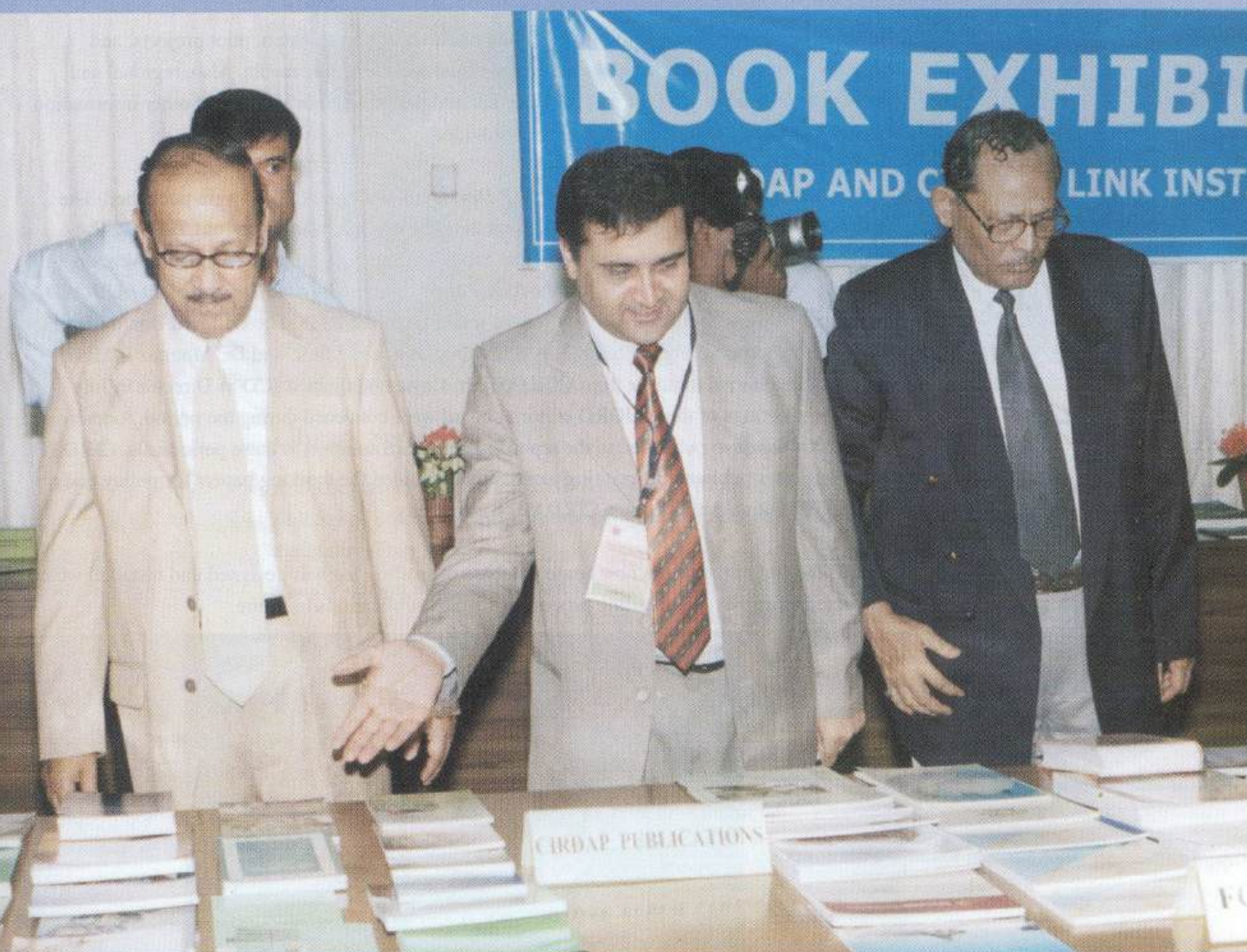


Information and Communication

- Information Generation and Dissemination
- Publication
- Library Services
- Information Technology Services
- Audio-Visual Support Services

Focused Areas

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



H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan going around the book exhibition in CIRDAP

Information and Communication Division

CIRDAP is mandated to act as an information dissemination focal point for its member countries. Throughout the years, the Centre has been publishing reports, newsletters/ journals, offering training courses on information technology, conducting audio-visual documentation and providing library and information services. Over the time, information technology (IT) has had a massive upliftment and has emerged as one of the most effective tools for intervention in the developing world. CIRDAP recognises this and has been trying to improve its IT services by making stronger the IT base of the headquarters, in order to render better and effective services to its member countries.

In 2005, activities of the Information and Communication Division (ICD) mainly evolved around upgrading and setting up the IT base in CIRDAP.

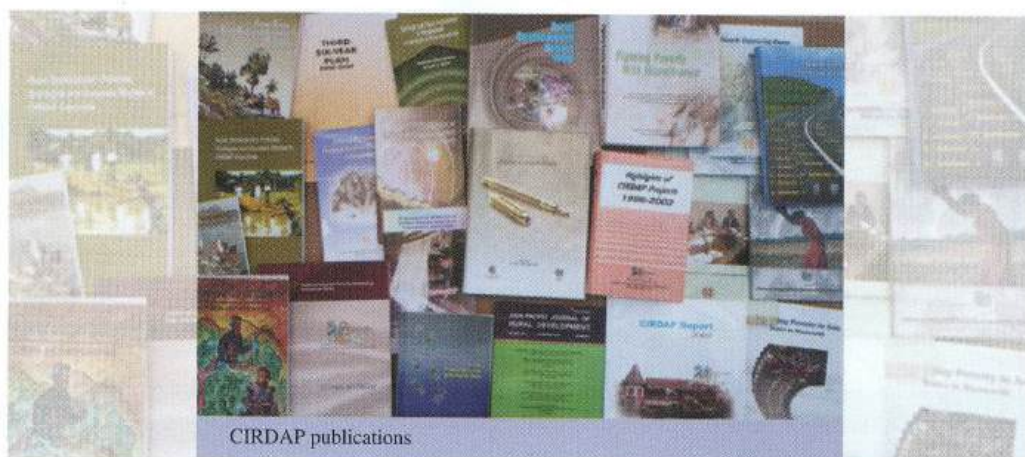
Activities of the division under different categories are as follows:

Information Generation and Dissemination

ICD regularly disseminates information on the research, action research, pilot projects, and training activities of CIRDAP via print, audio-visual and electronic media. Also, regional and cross-country data are generated through regular and periodic publications, and other information services like library and online services are provided.

In 2005, four issues of the quarterly *CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD)* were published. The 100th issue (June 2005) had a special focus on the new strategic framework of CIRDAP. The publishing and mailing process of CDD were expedited and regularised so that there were no backlogs. In this period, one issue of *The Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD)* was published while work is underway for the second issue of 2005. The Editorial Board of APJORD was reconstituted with Mr. K.A.S Dayananda as the editor, and Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed as the internal member from CIRDAP. Mr. Dayananda joined ICD as Director in July 2005. Two meetings of the APJORD editorial board were convened during the period. *Annual Report 2004* was also published in the reporting period. In addition to these periodicals, CIRDAP carried out other publications/printing work which included the working papers for policy body meetings, divisional publications, CIRDAP brochure etc.

Towards the end of the year a new demo database of mailing list was designed and installed which is expected to improve the mailing process of regular publications in future.



CIRDAP publications

ICD played an important role during the EC25 and GC15 meetings and the regional policy dialogue in September-October 2005. Occasional press briefings and a press conference was held in addition to the regular press releases during the meetings. An exhibition of books and photographs of CIRDAP member countries was held at the CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library from 29 September to 3 October 2005. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Government of Bangladesh. The Minister also unveiled the Name Plaque of the Library and a portrait of late Mr. Aziz-ul Haq. The division also published an information booklet for the delegates and carried out the printing and collating the documents of the working papers for the meeting. The research publication Draft Rural Development Report 2005 was also reproduced during this time.



H.E. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan unveiling the name plaque of the library

Library Services

In 2005, activities of the CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Memorial Library were strengthened with the addition of online resources. A number of important activities improved the services provided by the library. They were:

- Under an agreement with the World Bank, Library is now getting free access to the World Bank e-library, World Development Indicators (WDI), Online and Global Development Finance (GDF) Online databases.
- CIRDAP became a member of UN Library Network in Bangladesh. Liaison with other libraries was strengthened by rapport building through correspondence and visits. The Librarian visited the library of NIRD, CIRDAP's link Institution in India, in September 2005.
- Newspaper articles on rural development from CMCs are now being collected and posted in the CIRDAP website.
- The Library database was made available in the LAN, for use of the internal staff. So were electronic resources like PRSP of CMCs, free electronic journals etc.

In addition to these, regular library activities were carried out, and regular library services were provided. Weeding out and stocktaking of publications have progressed significantly.

Information Technology Services

Over the recent years, CIRDAP has been trying to improve its IT services by making stronger the IT base of the Headquarters, in order to render better and effective services to its member countries. Currently CIRDAP is running its IT works by using 27 computers, 1 Laptop, 19 dot matrix printers, 8 Laser Printers, and one Scanner.

During 2004-2005, 18 computers out of the 27 have been replaced and upgraded to build the ground for Local Area Network (LAN) with plans to replace the remaining computers in the second phase in 2006. In May 2005, computer users in the Centre came under the Local Area Network (LAN) system through structured cabling with 22 nodes. In June 2005, broadband connectivity using combination of Radio Link and DSL was also introduced for internal users. Users in the Centre now have access to facilities like Internet browsing, e-mail and sharing files/resources through the network. A server room was established to control and monitor the IT activities of CIRDAP. Since Bangladesh is using VSAT technology-bandwidth is very costly, that is why CIRDAP has started with 64 kbps bandwidth. Earlier the Centre was maintaining Internet connectivity through dial up systems only. Gradually Intranet and web-based facilities are being implemented.

CIRDAP is now operating its web-based activities under two domains, namely cirdap.org.sg and cirdap.org. New e-mail addresses were set up under the new domain cirdap.org. About 27 e-mail accounts have been provided to individuals and divisions. The new divisional e-mail addresses include:

dgcirdap@cirdap.org
(Director General's Office)
research@cirdap.org
(Research Division)
ppd@cirdap.org
(Pilot Projects Division)
training@cirdap.org
(Training Division)

infocom@cirdap.org
(Information &
Communication Division)
adminisration@cirdap.org
(Administration Division)
planning@cirdap.org
(Planning and Resource
Mobilisation Unit)

Email can be accessed through third party software or web. CIRDAP is running its IT setup in collaboration with renowned Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Dhaka e.g. Proshikanet, Global Online and Grameen Cybernet. E-commerce site is established in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia. At present CIRDAP is running its setup by using Open Source software to minimise the cost.

ICD also designed a website for its Link institution in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in 2005 (domain name www.bard.gov.bd). Like the previous years, this year also ICD maintained its regular IT services and arranged four internal briefing sessions on Information Technology for the staff members.

Audio-Visual Support Services

In 2005, a video documentation on 'Integrated Approach to Rural Development: A CIRDAP Initiative' was produced. Audio-visual collection was enriched through the book and photographic exhibition during the EC-GC meetings. Regular photographic coverage of the Centres programmes was done.

Administration and Finance

Main functions of Administration and Finance Division are to provide support services to the office of Director General and the Programme Divisions in different ways, such as in organising CIRDAP policy body meetings, recruiting, developing, managing and utilising personnel, protocol, procurement, maintenance of office premises and properties, management of Auditorium, conference rooms and cafeteria, liaison with different ministries/agencies; recommending and administering financial policies/procedure; managing financial affairs; and preparation of programme works of budget (PWB) etc.

Policy Bodies of CIRDAP

CIRDAP has three policy bodies, each is responsible to perform distinct roles and functions to operate the centre's activities. These includes (i) the Governing Council (GC) which is the highest policy and decision-making body of CIRDAP represented by the Ministers of the designated Contact Ministries of all the member countries. It is the only regional forum of the ministers related to rural development in the Asia-Pacific region; (ii) the Executive Committee (EC) whose primary role is to review and make recommendations to GC on matters concerning the management and operation of the Centre's activities and provide guidance to the Centre on implementation of the policies and decision adopted by the GC is represented by the Secretary/ Permanent Secretaries General of the Contact Ministries; (iii) the Technical Committee (TC) is to provide technical advice on professional matters concerning implementation of the Centre's activities, and the interrelationship and coordination of activities carried out by the Centre under the member countries auspices. It is represented by the heads of the designated Link Institutions (CLIs) in the CMCs. TC members can also be representatives from non-member states, which make financial contributions to the Centre's activities, IRD expert, and the Director General of CIRDAP.

Organisational Structure of CIRDAP Headquarters and its Regional Centre

Organisational structure of CIRDAP Headquarters was designed in 1979 based on the contemporary issues and realities. As per existing organogram, there are five divisions- (i) Research, (ii) Pilot Projects, (iii) Training, (iv) Information and Communication, and (v) Administration and Finance. One unit- Planning and Resource Mobilisation, was created in 1996 under direct control and supervision of Director General / Deputy Director General. The Director General is the Chief Executive and legal representative of CIRDAP to be responsible for the implementation of the countries programmes and activities as approved by the GC.

As envisaged in the Agreement of its establishment, the Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) established in 1997 provides a basis and plays a catalytic role for enhancing effective and efficient services to generate resources and knowledge of rural development and poverty alleviation from successful experiences of South-east Asian countries for the benefit of CMCs.

Activities during 2005

- a) Filled up the vacant posts in the professional category by recruiting two Directors in the Research Division and Information & Communication Division in order to increase the professional strength of the Centre. Besides, recruitment of a new Administrative Officer was also done.
- b) All HR-related matters e.g. appointment, extension of services, increment and updating of Staff profile etc. were done timely during 2005.
- c) Successfully arranged the back-to-back EC/GC meetings at CIRDAP premises during September-October. Also arranged TC Meeting during December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- d) Massive repair, renovation, beautification and maintenance works of CIRDAP Complex were done through Ministry of Housing and Public Works and CIRDAP.
- e) Two staff members-Ms. Sompit Punyaratabandhu, Director (Pilot Projects) and Mr. Qazi Abu Zafar Mohd. Tipu, Filing Assistant, left CIRDAP on personal ground while two staff members-Mr. Md. Siddiquir Rahman, Senior Secretary to DG, retired from the services and Mr. Md. Shamsul Huda, Temporary Secretary, was released from the contractual services of CIRDAP during 2005. CIRDAP bid farewell to the above officials in a befitting manner.



Farewell of Ms. Punyaratabandhu

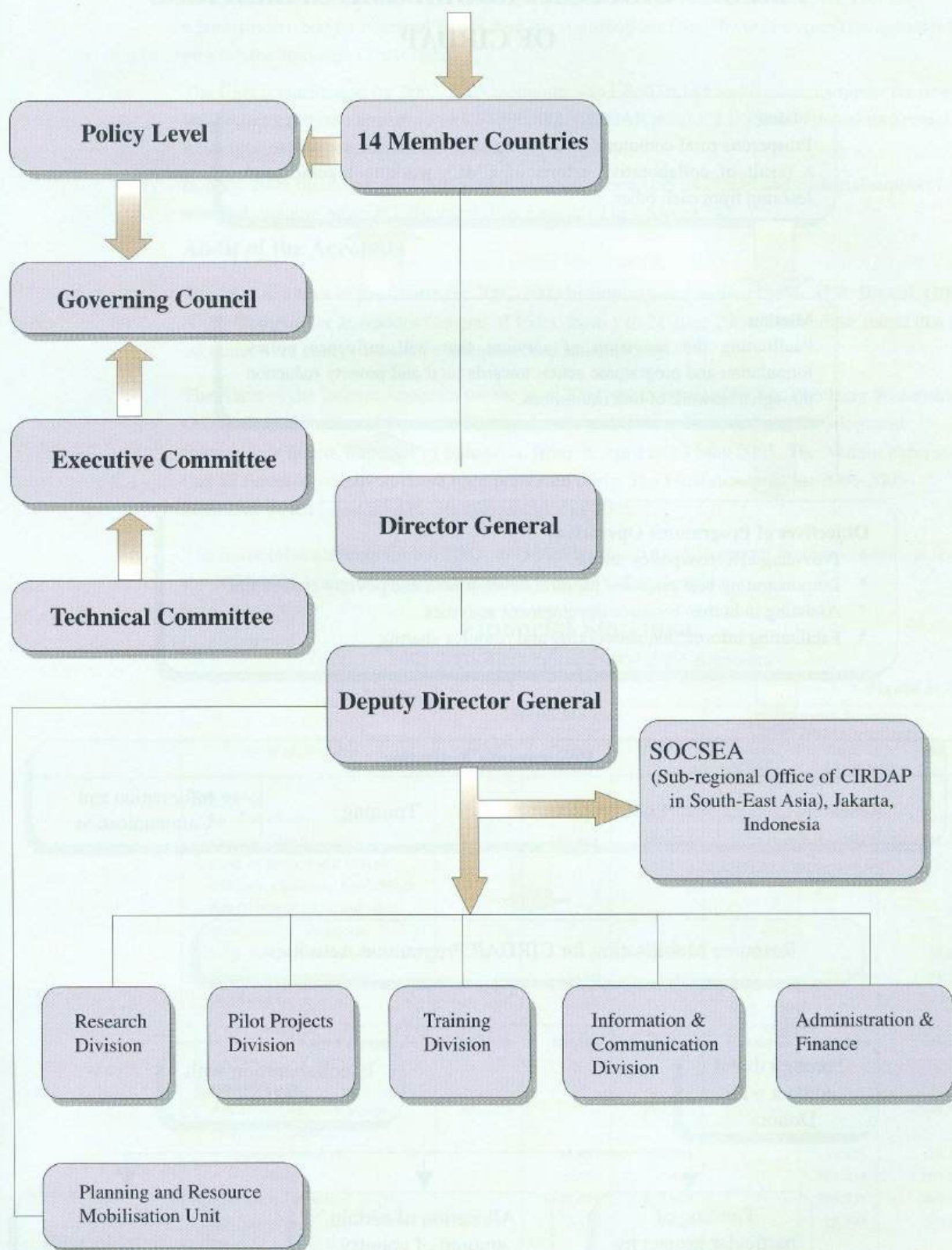


Farewell of Mr. Siddiquir Rahman

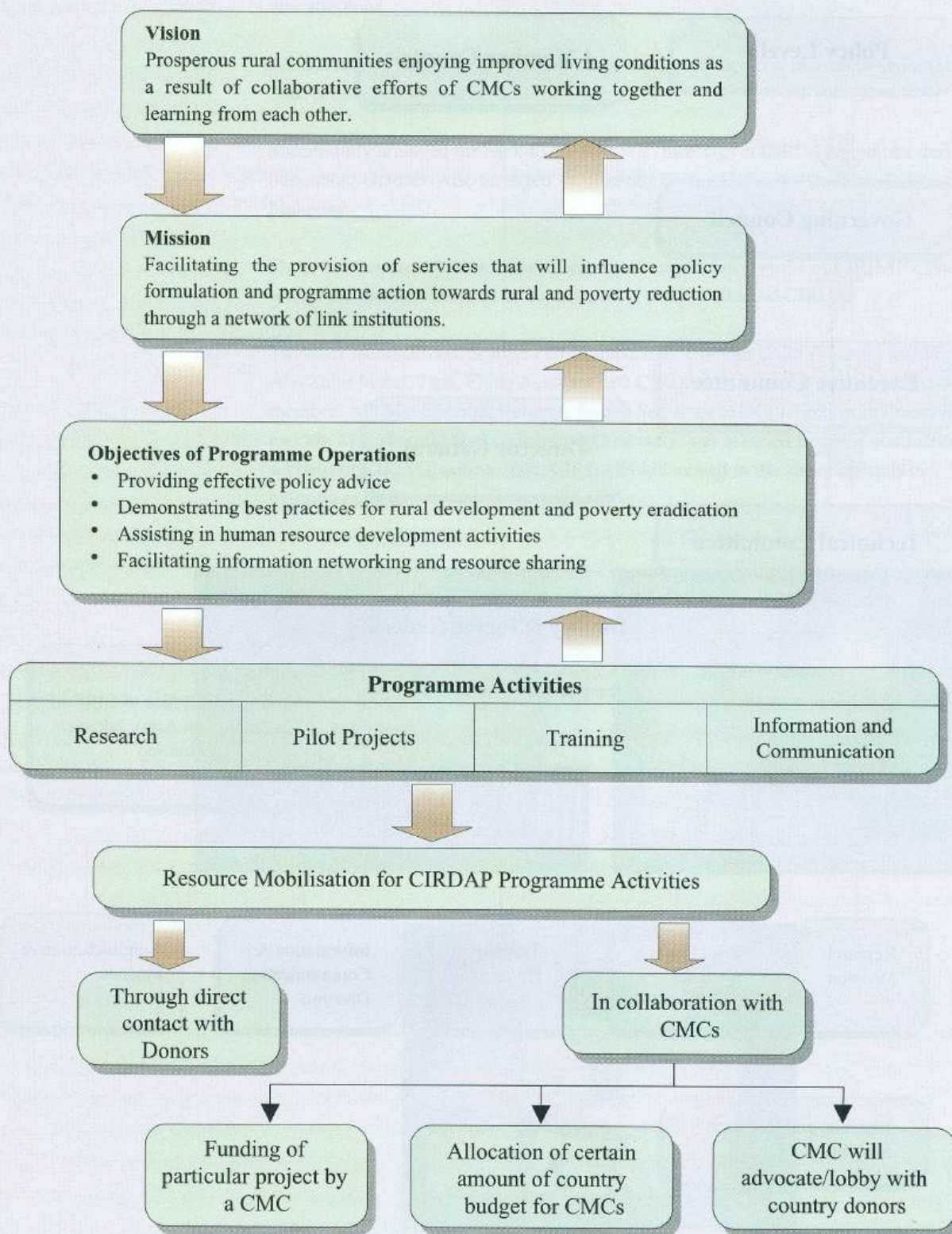


Farewell of Mr. Abu Zafar

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



FRAMEWORK FOR PROGRAMME OPERATIONS OF CIRDAP



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).

The CMC contribution for 2002-2003 biennium was US\$926,183 and financial support for new and ongoing projects amounted to US\$390,883. CIRDAP provided US\$8,000 out of its Special Reserve Fund for programme activities.

In 2004-2005 biennium, the CMC contributions reached US\$1,127,739 and financial support for new and ongoing projects implementation amounted to US\$899,742.

Audit of the Accounts

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

The Audit of the Interim Accounts for the year 2004 was conducted by Mr. Bambang Widaryanto, Office of the Directorate for Audit Foreign Loans and Grants, Financial and Development Supervisory Board, Republic of Indonesia, from 30 April to 13 May 2005. The Auditor expressed that all financial statements have been presented fairly. The Final Accounts for 2004-2005 biennium would be audited by the same auditor in 2006.

The financial statements for the 2002-2003 biennium and the provisional financial statement for the 2004-2005 biennium have been furnished in the following table:

Financial Statement

2002-2003 Biennium and 2004-2005 Biennium

Figure in US\$

Head of Accounts	Twelfth Biennium 2002-2003			Thirteenth Biennium 2004-2005 (Provisional)		
	General Fund	Trust Fund	Total	General Fund	Trust Fund	Total
Income						
- Member Country contributions	926,183	-	926,183	1,127,739	-	1,127,739
- Donors, Contributions: Govt. of India, FAO, UNDP, CIRAP, Common. Sect., IFAD, BIRD, NIRD, JICA and other donor countries/agencies	-	390,883	390,883	-	861,242	861,242
- Miscellaneous Income (G. Fund)	69,693	-	69,693	58,000	-	58,000
- Special Reserve Fund for Programmes	-	8,000	8,000	-	38,500	38,500
Total Expenditure:	995,876	398,883	1,394,759	1,185,739	899,742	2,085,481
Expenditure						
- Administrative Expenditure	899,883	-	899,883	1,069,950	-	1,069,950
- Project Expenditure:						
• Research Projects	-	32,851	32,851	-	19,121	19,121
• Pilot Projects	-	5,416	5,416	-	283,233	283,233
• Training Projects	-	135,079	135,079	-	305,925	305,925
- Information & Communication Projects	-	13,139	13,139	-	26,898	26,898
- Others from D.R.F	-	949	949	-	-	-
Total Expenditure:	899,883	187,434	1,087,317	1,069,950	635,177	1,705,127

Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP

The Sub-regional Office of CIRDAP in South East Asia (SOCSEA) was established in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 February 1997. This was in accordance with a decision taken at the 10th Governing Council Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 1995.

SOCSEA is to assist and expand CIRDAP membership and its resources, to conduct training, research and pilot projects relevant to the South-East Asian region.

Since its inception in 1997, SOCSEA in collaboration with various agencies/organisations has implemented 37 programmes/ activities consisting of 8 training programmes, 14 seminars, 3 workshops, 5 research programmes and 7 inter-regional information exchanges activities.

Further, during the period under review SOCSEA has carried out 5 regional projects/activities and 4 in-country programmes. They were :

Regional Programmes:

- Participation of CIRDAP / SOCSEA in Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Aceh, Indonesia.
- Signing of MOU between CIRDAP and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia.
- Meeting of DG, CIRDAP and Director of Functional Cooperation, ASEAN Secretariat.
- International Training Programme on Micro-Enterprise, Micro- Finance, Marketing of Rural Products.
- International (Asia-Pacific) Course on Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects jointly organised by CIRDAP/ SOCSEA and NAM CSSTC.

In-country Programmes:

- Training on the Improvement of Marketing Management of Small and Medium Industry.
- Seminar on the Establishment of Institutional Coordination for Poverty Alleviation.
- Training on the Development of Sheep/Goat Breeding Management for Poverty Alleviation.
- Training on the Use of Solar Energy for Food Processing.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal (R), Mr. Progo Nurdjaman (C), and Mr. Agung Mulyana (L), Head of SOCSEA

Dr. Paudyal Calls on Dignitaries

During the year 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 does 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 linkages with other regional bodies like SAARC, ASEAN and ECO (Economic Cooperation Organisation). All dignitaries welcomed the idea and vision of the new Director General and expressed all possible support.



Dr. Paudyal met H.E. Xanana Gusmao, President of East Timor



Meeting with H.E. Mohd. Haneef Atmar (2nd-L) and others in Afghanistan



DG, CIRDAP called on H.E. Moh Ma'ruf, Minister of Home Affairs, Indonesia



DG, CIRDAP called on H.E. Dato' Dr. Mohd. Tap Salleh (R) in Malaysia



Dr. Paudyal interacting with H.E. Justice (Retd.) Abdul Razak A. Thahim (L), Mr. Shafqat Ezdi Shah (2nd-R) and others in Pakistan



Meeting with H.E. Mr. Rene C. Villa, Secretary (C), H.E. Mr. Gerundio "Khaliq" C. Madueno, Undersecretary (2nd-L) and Ms. Susana Evangelista Leones, Director, DLR (L)



Dr. Paudyal handing over a CIRDAP crest to H.E. Major General Htay Oo



DG, CIRDAP with H.E. Sri Sultan Hamencku Buwono X, Governor of Special Territory of Yogyakarta



DG, CIRDAP with H.E. Dr. Bui Ba Bong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam



DG, CIRDAP with H.E. Dr. Siene Saphangthong, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR



Dr. Paudyal in a meeting with H.E. S.A. Roholamin (L) and other senior officials of the Ministry in Iran



Dr. Paudyal handing over a set of CIRDAP publications to H.E. Harry K. Thomas, Ambassador of USA to Dhaka

CIRDAP Staff Profile

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 1986-1995. He has contributed a lot in the policy-making process of Nepal as a member of the High Level Decentralisation Coordination 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 coordinated 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.



Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, *Bangladesh*

[Ph.D. in Economics, U.K.]

Director (Research Division)

Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, a renowned economist and a reputed Professor of Economics of the University of Dhaka has joined CIRDAP as Director, Research on 5 April 2005. Subsequent to having a Ph. D. Degree from the University of Lancaster, U.K., he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), Japan in 1985, South Asian Visiting Fellow at the Oxford University, U.K. in 1994 and Professorial Fellow of the Japan Foundation at the University of Tokyo in 1995. In recognition to his scholarly pursuits and accomplishments in both teaching and research he was offered various high positions from time to time by the Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Ahmed was offered the position of Membership in the Planning Commission for two years in 2002, Chairman, Rupali Bank in 2001, Member, National Wages and Productivity Commission in 1992 and Member, National Minimum Wages Board in 1992. Currently, he is a Director of the Board of Directors of the Bangladesh Bank, Member, Board of Governors of the Bangladesh Palli Daridra Bimochon Foundation (PDBF) and Member of the National Advisory Panel on Small and Medium Industries Development. As an accomplished researcher Dr. Ahmed's work is published widely in national and international journals and he has several research based books to his credit. He has widely travelled around the world in connection with academic works as a professional economist. Dr. Ahmed was invited as an International Visitor by the US State Department in 1988 and as a distinguished scholar by the Adenauer Konrad Foundation of Germany in 1999.



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 Cooperatives, Bangkok. She has 21 years of experience in agricultural projects 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 and left in October 2005.



Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, *Sri Lanka*

[M.Sc. Development Communication, University of Philippines at Los Banos]

Director, (Information and Communication Division)

Mr. Dayananda worked as the Head, Information and Publication Unit of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Sri Lanka for a long time. The institute regularly published research reports, occasional papers, training manuals, seminar/workshop proceedings, research journals, farmers journals and newsletters in three languages. He also was

involved in operating a successful food market information programme that was initiated with the assistance of USAID/FAO. He was a member of the National Farm Broadcasting Committee and has worked in an advisory capacity for the Ministry of Agriculture to produce extension manuals and public relation programmes. Under a USAID programme, he has undergone training in communication planning and strategy at the Cornell University, USA, where he got an exposure to the operations of the Information/ Publication Departments of UN Headquarters, World Bank and also VOA, US library of Congress etc. Mr. Dayananda joined CIRDAP on 1 July 2005.



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, seminar, 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 Division)

As an agronomist, Ms. San San Hla has served Myanmar Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise for about one year till September 2004. She worked as an 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 specialising in rice based cropping system from 1991 to 1993 after her study abroad from 1988 to 1991. She has nine years of experience as a 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 Microcredit. At CIRDAP, Dr. Momin briefly worked as the Administrative Officer, and also served as a Programme Officer of Pilot Projects Division from October 1999 to June 2004. Dr. Momin has joined CIRDAP in January 1981.



Mr. U Than Htay, Myanmar

[B. Econ. in Economic Planning, Yangon University of Economics;

Diploma of Integrated Rural Development 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 a 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 and left in February 2005.



Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Bangladesh

[B.A (Hons), M.A. in History

M.A (International Relations)

LL.B (Dhaka University)

Certificate in Management, Soviet Union (USSR)]

Administrative Officer

As an Officer of the Administrative service of Bangladesh, Mr. Anisuzzaman worked in different Ministries and Organisations for 30 years including the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives - Contact Ministry of CIRDAP. Though his expertise is on Administration and Management, he has developed knowledge and expertise in rural development of Bangladesh while he worked as Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Head of a small Administrative Unit under district) and Deputy Project Director under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives. Mr. Anisuzzaman has joined CIRDAP in February 2005 as Administrative Officer.



Mr. Devi Prasad Mazumder, Bangladesh

[M.A. in Economics, Chittagong University;

Post-graduate Diploma in Journalism, London School of Journalism, UK]

Project Officer, Information & Communication

Mr. Mazumder has substantially worked in the areas of information dissemination, and development support communication. On an IDRC-Canada Scholarship, he received hands-on specialised training on editing and precision-writing for the generalists at IRRI Philippines. As a core member of the Study Team, he actively took part in a year-round exercise on institutional self-assessment and strategic planning conducted by IDRC Canada, Universalis Group Canada, and AIM Philippines. At CIRDAP for over 10 years, he worked progressively in Research Projects, Information and Communication programs, Training, Administration and Finance Division. As a faculty member, he served as a resource person to train mid-level to senior Government Officials in CIRDAP Member Countries. On other assignments, he worked as an expert in the Government programs, in curriculum development for adult literacy with the Integrated Non-formal Education Program (INFEP) and in capacity building of local institutions with the National Minor Irrigation Program (NMIDP) at national level. At international levels, he worked as a consultant with UNESCO/UNDP Dhaka and as a training specialist with UNOPS-ETIF, Dili (Timor Leste). For five years, he worked as the Administrative Officer and Head of Administration and Finance Division at CIRDAP. During the period, he coordinated several high-level Statutory and Policy Body Meetings of CIRDAP and facilitated various international fora. He has been transferred to the present position at ICD in February 2005.



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 Sahajjo 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 multidisciplinary 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 worked as a project staff in the project "Food Control Drainage and Irrigation (FCDI) since 1986 prior to his formal joining in CIRDAP in 1991.



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 extensive experience in organising travel and tour related to international seminars, workshops, conferences etc. To accomplish his protocol duties, he has to work closely 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
[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 a Training Associate. Since April 2000, she has been serving as the Assistant Information and Communications Officer. 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.Phil. 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

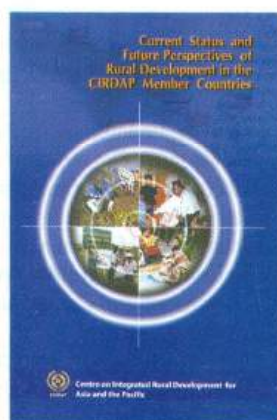
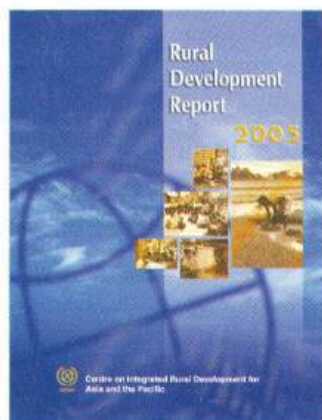
Mr. Siddiqur Rahman	:	Senior Secretary
Mr. Jahangir Selim	:	Photographer-cum-Artist
Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed	:	Finance Assistant
Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	:	Senior Secretary
Mr. M.S. Patwary	:	Secretary
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	:	Secretary
Mr. S. Sen Gupta	:	Property & Supply Assistant
Mr. M. Kabir Ahmed Siddique	: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

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	IGAs	Income-Generating Activities
AHKNCRD & MA	Akter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration	IRD	Integrated Rural Development
ALDA	Agrarian Reform Communities' Level of Development Assessment	ISPs	Internet Service Providers
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reforms	ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation
APF	Azim Premji Foundation	IT	Information Technology
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
ASA	Association for Social Advancement	JUAAB	Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh
ASEAN	Association for South-East Asian Nations	LAN	Local Area Network
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	LDCs	Least Developed Countries
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
CARD	CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development	MAS	Myanmar Agriculture Service
CARTC	Central Agricultural Research and Training Centre	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
CBO	Community-based Organisation	MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
CCMs	CIRDAP Contact Ministries	MLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
CDD	CIRDAP Development Digest	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
CIARPS	CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar	MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
CIPS	Community Information and Planning System	NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific	NAM-CSSTC	Non-Aligned Movement for South-South Technical Cooperation
CITQT	Centre for Information Technology and Quantitative Techniques	NCC	National Coordination Committee
CKGRM	Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanism	NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
CLIs	CIRDAP Link Institutions	NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	OTELP	Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	OTOP	One Tambon One Product
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Project	PA	Poverty Alleviation
DAP	Department of Agricultural Planning	PASViD	Participatory Approach to Sustainable Village Development
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	PAViDIA	Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas in Zambia
DG	Director General	PCARRD	People's Council for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
DGF	Global Development Finance	PCM	Project Cycle Management
DMB	Disaster Management Bureau	PDM	Project Design Matrix
EAP	East Asia and the Pacific	PKSF	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
EC	Executive Committee	PPD	Pilot Projects Division
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation	PRMU	Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
GC	Governing Council	PWB	Programme of Work and Budget
GIS	Geographic Information System	RD	Rural Development
GO	Government Organisation	RDR	Rural Development Report
HARTI	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute	RIMS	Results and Impact Management System
ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
ICD	Information and Communication Division	SCBRMP	Sunamgonj Community Based Resource Management Project
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	SCOPE	Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	SDGs	SAARC Development Goals
		SHGs	Self-Help Groups
		SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
		SOCSEA	Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
		TC	Technical Committee
		WDI	World Development Indicators
		WTO	World Trade Organisation

Recent CIRDAP Publications

- Current Status and Future Perspectives of Rural Development in the CIRDAP Member Countries. Study Series No. 200. 2006.
- Rural Development Report 2005. Study Series No. 199. 2005.
- Guidelines for Good Governance. Training Series No. 74. CIRDAP 2005.
- Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Success Stories in CIRDAP Countries. Study Series No. 198. CIRDAP 2004.
- Governance, Partnership and Poverty. Training Series No. 73. CIRDAP 2003.
- Asian Financial Crisis and South Asia. Study Series No. 196. CIRDAP 2003.
- Empowerment of Women in CIRDAP Member Countries: Experiences and Issues. Study Series No. 195 CIRDAP 2003.
- Community Initiative for Fisheries Development: An Evaluation of the Pankowri Fishery Project in Daudkandi, Bangladesh. Study Series No. 194. CIRDAP 2002.
- Economic Reforms, Natural Resources and Environment in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Study Series No. 13. CIRDAP 2001.
- Efficacy of Alternative Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Study Series No. 12. CIRDAP 2001.
- Rural Urban Migration and Poverty: The Case for Reverse Migration in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Study Series No. 10. CIRDAP 2001.
- Interlinkages of Agricultural Diversification in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Series No. 9. CIRDAP 2001.
- Towards Empowering Women: Microcredit and Social Mobilization. Action Research Series No. 27 CIRDAP 2001.
- Government-NGO Collaboration for Poverty Alleviation. Study Series No. 191. CIRDAP 2000.
- Savings and Farm Investment in Bangladesh: An Analysis of Rural Households. MAP Focus Study Series No. 11. CIRDAP 2000.
- Fighting Poverty with Microfinance. Action Research Series No. 26. CIRDAP 2000.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 1. July 2005.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XIV, No. 2. December 2004.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XIV, No. 1. July 2004.



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 Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
INDIA	National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) Rajanedranagar, Hyderabad	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhaban, New Delhi
INDONESIA	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment (DGCVE), Ministry of Home Affairs, Jalan Raya Pasar Minggu, KM 19, Jakarta	Ministry of Home Affair, 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-Agricultur No. 8 - Ahmad Ghasir 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	Institute for Rural Advancement Lot 2A, Persiaran Institusi Bandar Baru Bangi, 43000 Kajang Selangor, Malaysia	Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Level 4-9, Block D9, Parcel D Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62606 Putrajaya, Malaysia
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, Government of the Union of Myanmar, Thiri Mingalar Lane, Off. Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, 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 / FAPsO, 2/F, FAPsO Building, DLR Compound, 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 Agricultural Development, Govijana Mandiraya, 80/5, Rajamalwatta Avenue, Battaramulla
THAILAND	National FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200	Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives, Rajadamnern Avenue, Bangkok
VIETNAM	Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2 Ngoc ha Street, Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 2, Ngoc Ha Street, Hanoi



Chameli House, CIRDAP