

CIRDAP

Annual Report
2006



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 Organisation (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 (e.g. health, education and nutrition); Employment generation through microcredit 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.



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2006 *in Review*

Director General's Report

The recent initiatives of CIRDAP at redefining its mission and strategic approaches enable it to make a significant progress during the year 2006 by gaining increased stature at global platforms and in finding its niche intervention and adjustments. These were within its priority areas of concern, namely agrarian development, institutional and infrastructure development, resource development including human resources, and employment.

To look back at its fundamental inscription with post-modern age's demand and desire, CIRDAP had to wade through several international cross-currents. Firstly, due to development paradigm shifts taking place in the overall national progress, programmes of rural development came under scrutiny as a rational development strategy. Secondly, the lead UN rural development organisation, the FAO is now moving towards more technical aspects of agriculture. Accordingly, in the institutional reform package, the Rural Development Division of FAO Headquarter has been fragmented and merged with several other divisions. CIRDAP, however, views that agriculture development and rural development are interdependent for participatory, equitable and sustainable development. Hence CIRDAP would be very important institute to bridge the gap. Thirdly, with paradigm shift of macro-level policies to globalisation, economic liberalisation, WTO arrangements etc, CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) have achieved notable strides in terms of GDP growth and rise in per capita income, but most of them are yet to go a long way towards eradicating poverty, achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and fulfilling aspiration of the common people in improving their quality of life, particularly in the rural areas. The 14 CMCs are constituted of 2.02 billion people in 2003. Currently around 58 per cent of them live in rural areas. With more than 60 per cent of the world's population, the region is also home to nearly two-thirds of the estimated 1.2 billion extreme poor of the world. More importantly 75 per cent of them live in the rural areas.

Over the past decades, one finds the varied level of development across countries and geographic regions among CMCs. The income distribution and other socio-economic indicators are highly skewed disfavours indigenous communities, disadvantaged groups and remote territories. Similarly, there is an increasing disparity in the rural and urban areas in income, literacy and other basic indicators of development. On the institutional front, institutional strengthening and empowerment and participation of rural people continue to remain formidable challenges towards achieving equitable and sustainable rural development. Decentralisation of local government institutions and devolution of authority are emphasised in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and their different variants are also used to enable people's participation in the plan formulation and implementation of area specific development programmes. However, the policies in several countries in this regard are seen to suffer from authority gap, manpower gap, resource gap, and management capacity gap for enhancing the local capability in local resource mobilisation, coordinating various agencies and regulating the local development process.

Efforts are taken by CIRDAP to determine programme priorities accordingly, and the projects are designed to respond to the emerging needs of the member countries. So far CIRDAP has carried out 301 projects, of which 80 are research, 38 are pilot/action research, 146 are training and 37 are information communication. Some indicators, which are manifestation of the relevance of these, can be in terms of how far they are utilised for policy making, in generating new ideas and providing insights into problem areas. However over the past few years, there had been a

consistently decreasing trend in the number and size of the projects, particularly in research and pilot projects, mainly due to the emergence of other players in the servicing sectors such as I/NGOs and international private consulting firms and their increasing use by donors. To cope with this situation, CIRDAP has initiated two-pronged strategies. First, it is positioning itself in the international policy framework in which CIRDAP will be logically included. Second, it is trying to generate resources from CMCs by providing professional services for ongoing rural development projects.

Revisiting IRD Model

Many organisations that have branched out from the concept of integrated rural development (IRD) have lost the glory once they enjoyed. As mentioned earlier, IRD concept itself is now under the microscope. At the same time, without central theme of integration, agriculture and rural development projects tend to become piece-meal and of poorly coordinated to each other. Oftentimes, they are both duplicated and redundant or they leave some important sectors completely unattended. Donors may finance some of these piece-meal projects without ensuring any meaningful linkage with each other.

Thus the need to diagnose the IRD model and synergise it with contemporary realities was subjected to an intense dialogue at the meetings of CIRDAP Technical Committees-TC-20, TC-21 and TC-22. At the TC-22 meeting in Bandung, Indonesia on 12-14 September 2006, it was pointed out that there are several unique and promising projects for local and rural development now being implemented in Bangladesh, where the original IRD model (Comilla model) emerged. Some projects such as Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund Project; Participatory Rural Development Project (Link Model); Local Development Coordination Programmes; and Comprehensive Village Development Programme are unique in method, approach and strategy, union-level governance, organising community participation in development process, implementation of rural works of community interest etc. The possibility of utilising successful elements of these projects to energise IRD model for the benefit of the Asia-Pacific region is to be examined further by CIRDAP.

Participation in International Forums

ICARRD

The second milestone of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) held in 1979, the International Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) was jointly organised by FAO and the Government of Brazil with the slogan 'a vision for the future' from 7 to 10 March 2006 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The conference was attended by 1400 participants from 120 FAO member countries, 450 NGOs, 130 Farmer and Civil Society Organisations, among others. As decided by the CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC 21) held in Malaysia in 2005, Director General of CIRDAP presented 'An Overview of the Current Trends and Emerging Issues in Rural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region', in collaboration with CMCs. The paper also highlighted, among others, that over the past 26 years, CIRDAP helped its member countries to follow up the WCARRD action plan in the areas of analysing the concepts of the Peasant Charter and raise knowledge, awareness, exposure and capabilities in their own policy context. It also pointed out that in the follow-up of action plan of ICARRD, CIRDAP could play a useful and effective role in the following areas:

- Follow-up of ICARRD action plan in the countries of Asia-Pacific region;
- Capacity building of rural development functionaries through training and exposure visits;
- Revisiting important policy agenda of agrarian reform and rural development in the new economic context and policy environment;
- Knowledge development and dissemination in the emerging new areas of inclusive, participatory and sustainable rural development; and
- High level policy dialogue on emerging issues relating to RD and PA processes.

It is very heartening to report that ICARRD recommended strengthening regional organisations like CIRDAP and CIRD-Africa. CIRDAP followed it up proactively by publishing a special issue of CIRDAP's Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development on ICARRD. Copies of this issue were circulated to 120 countries that attended the conference. The special issue of the journal was highly appreciated by FAO that 'Ö, this document and the advocacy work that CIRDAP will carry out in relation to it ÖÖÖ will contribute to the promotion of the vision, principles and pledges for action in favour of people centred agrarian reform and rural development contained in the ICARRD declaration'.



DG, CIRDAP making a presentation at ICARRD in Porto Alegre, Brazil

MfDR

CIRDAP was also invited to participate in the OECD-DAL-ADB conference for the Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results (CoP MfDR) held on 30 August -1 September 2006 in Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. A concept note on 'Evolving sustainable Rural Development Index in Asia and the Pacific: Building Consensus for its Development' was presented by Director General of CIRDAP at this conference. The concept proposal is being advocated in view of the growing demand for rigorous impact evaluation that is being linked with the advocacy for harmonisation and aid effectiveness. This conference was the forerunner of the Third Roundtable on Managing for Development Results to be held in 2007.

Building Partnership

In order to carry out mutually beneficial collaboration programmes, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CIRDAP and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on 10 April 2006. At this ceremony, it was mentioned that CIRDAP's expertise and long experience in rural development would no doubt help improve the livelihood of rural masses in Hindu-Kush region of Himalayas.

CIRDAP also revived its development ties with Commonwealth Secretariat, Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC), IFAD, DFID, AARDO and FAO. It is also pursuing vigorously its new agenda for partnership with SAARC, ASEAN and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) of the West Asia.



Dr. J. G. Campbell (R), DG, ICIMOD and Dr. Paudyal signing MoU

CIRDAP is conscious of the fact that expression of political will and reiteration of commitment to rural development at highest policy level is important to improve quality of life of the rural poor. As both SAARC and ASEAN are represented by Head of Governments, partnership with these two organisations is vital in the future.

Training Grant from India

This year also Government of India has provided an amount of US\$212,400 for organising several regional training/exposure visit programmes. These programme were organised for capacity building efforts in the Asia-Pacific region through knowledge dissemination, sharing of expertise/experience of India with member countries for networking, future collaboration in RD efforts and to create better institutional and governance linkage in the region in order to fulfil the mandate for poverty reduction and enhanced regional cooperation.

Renovating 'Chameli House' and Construction of an International Conference Centre

In 1985, when CIRDAP moved to Dhaka from Comilla, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) provided a prestigious campus of a total area of 3.09 acres with an old heritage building known as 'Chameli House'. During the year, the Government of Bangladesh renovated this building at a cost of US\$145,000. This renovated building was inaugurated by the Hon. Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives on 6 July 2006, the day CIRDAP celebrated its 27th founding anniversary. Further GoB has also taken initiatives to construct a new multi-storied building for CIRDAP with international conference facilities. This was reported at the TC-22 Meeting held in Indonesia in September 2006.

Programme Activities

CIRDAP's Third Six-Year Plan (2002-2007) nears its ending, with the thematic areas: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development, employment generation through microcredit support, infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; GO-NGO collaboration; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concern for sustainable development. The programme activities of CIRDAP are undertaken by four divisions i.e. Research, Pilot Project, Training, and Information and Communication. Some selected programmes are mentioned below:

Rural Development Index

The Research Division has been engaged to identify and evaluate parameters for arriving at Sustainable Rural Development Index (SRDI), taking clue from the Department of Agrarian Reform, Philippines. Several consultative workshops, field-testing of Agrarian Reform Communities Level of Development Assessment (ALDA) tool in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Bangladesh, JICA etc. were held to apply it in Bangladesh context, initially.

The SRDI idea stems from the desire to establish an index that provides knowledge on the different levels of development of many rural communities, which development agencies claim they have reached out. Thus ALDA's six key areas with fifty eight indicators on reflection of rural development and the assessment rating may lead to the establishment of the SRDI index in the Asia-Pacific region.

Strengthening Community-based Organisations

IFAD-CIRDAP-ANGOC project on Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor (SCOPE) continued to increase the capacities of IFAD and its partners to design and implement community-based organisations' development action and promote up-scaling and policy linkage through their clusters in five selected countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and Philippines. Sustainability of those organisations of the poor, after withdrawal of the donor agencies having completed the project, is the main issue concerned.

Another activity of the same category is the proposed collaboration with FAO on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD-M) initiatives. The long-term objective of SARD-M project is to enhance livelihood in Hindu-Kush mountain regions and one of the main activities of the project is the assessment of mountain policies including social, economic, institutional and environmental aspects, in relation to SARD-M policies.

Training and Capacity Building

Training Division has carried out a large number of projects so far. As the division grows in terms of linkages, it facilitated its expertise for the pooling of experts in different areas of specialisation that is useful in promoting rural development and reducing poverty across CMCs. As explicitly implied, it has the capacity to enhance human resource development in different spheres e.g., high-ranking officials, mid-level managers and grassroots leaders through its Contact Ministries and Link Institutions. In this manner, CIRDAP is strengthening its foundation with the objective of consolidating its links to the UN system in the near future. Association with NAM-CSSTC which has more than 100 countries, can be mentioned. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Government of Indonesia is highly pleased with CIRDAP - NAM-CSSTC collaboration that is basically done in training programmes continuously for the past three years.

During the year concerned, CIRDAP has conducted nine programmes in the following manner:

- Two training-cum-exposure visits for Nepal and Indian officials on Microfinance, Microenterprise etc.

- Two regional training programmes on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, and GIS Applications for Rural Development.
- Training programmes on Local Governance in Delivery of Services, Women's Role in SME, etc

Over 250 officials from all CMCs participated in these programme. The support of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and its National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) in conducting these programmes is gratefully acknowledged.

Information Generation, Management and Dissemination

Through the Information and Communication Division (ICD), CIRDAP is getting connected than ever before not only to its CMCs, but also to the different development partners through its website. Also, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) gained a new stature internationally with popular academic websites such as CAB International, Oxford, U.K. and EBSCO Publishing, USA uploading full text on their websites. The number of good quality articles received from Asia and Africa has gone up more than tenfold. Further, release of CIRDAP E-Bulletin and introduction of on-line newspaper clippings from CMCs also took place during the year.

SOCSEA's Success

The Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in the South-East Asia which was established in 1997 to link CIRDAP with South-East Asia and Pacific countries and generate resources and knowledge on rural development and poverty alleviation played a key role in signing MoU with NAM-CSSTC in the previous year. During the year this was followed-up with several training programmes and workshops. Among them were:

- Enhancing Women's Role in SME Development;
- Community Empowerment in Prevention and use of Hazardous Preservatives for Food Products; and
- Production of Candied Papaya Stalk as Business Opportunities.

A comprehensive project proposal was also submitted to the Government of Indonesia to provide efficient professional services by CIRDAP to the ongoing rural development and poverty alleviation initiatives.

Challenges Ahead

Yet, still there are challenges ahead. Given the good institutional network with resourceful link institutions in CMCs, it may not be wise and cost-effective for CIRDAP to develop itself as an inclusive organisation. It must be developed as a networking organisation with CLIs and CMCs. However, the infrastructure and procedure of networking are yet to be clearly defined and developed.

On the whole, the year 2006 can be termed a year with a difference. CIRDAP member countries through the Contact Ministries and Link Institutions have extended their strong support and cooperation for effective implementation of mandated tasks. During the year, most of the CIRDAP stakeholders and donors, particularly, Government of Bangladesh, Government of India, IFAD and JICA have shown keen interest in working closely with the Centre. Now it is time to go ahead with new found initiatives in generating knowledge, capacity building, creating awareness and advocacy to serve better the rural masses in the Asia-Pacific region.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal
Director General

Policy Body Meeting

22nd Technical Committee

The twenty-second Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee hereinafter referred to as TC-22 was held at Bandung, Indonesia from 12 to 14 September 2006.

TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Afghanistan have attended the meeting. Also present were CIRDAP-IRD expert (Japan), and observers from FAO Regional Office, Bangkok and IFAD, Rome, Italy in the meeting.



Group photograph of TC- 22 Meeting

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Embassy Room of Savoy Homann Bidakar Hotel, Bandung, Indonesia on 12 September 2006. Mr. Arwar E Surbakti, Director for Community Training and Institution, chaired the session as the Chairperson of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-21). Mr. Ayip Muflich, Director General, Community and Village Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, inaugurated the meeting on behalf of the Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia.

Mr. K. Paembonan, Secretary Directorate General, Community and Village Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, was the Special Guest. Also were present Mr. Atiqur Rahman, Lead Strategist and Policy Coordinator, Policy Division External Affairs Department, IFAD, Rome, Italy; Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson of Executive Committee, CIRDAP; and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP.

TC-22 unanimously elected Government of Lao PDR as the Chairperson. The outgoing Chairperson of TC-21 from Indonesia thanked CIRDAP and the TC members for the cooperation extended during his term of office. The Director General, CIRDAP reported the activities of CIRDAP from December 2005 to September 2006. After detailed discussion, the TC-22 made the following suggestions:

- To link with the poverty portals of FAO and IFAD, it was suggested to contact web-master of the concerned organisations.
- CIRDAP should develop better communication linkages with international organisations like FAO, IFAD etc. through E-net to utilise opportunities and resources, including human resources available for rural development in CMCs.
- CIRDAP should envision a strategic approach to fit into a common agenda with CMCs and in partnership with FAO and IFAD to project a new image internationally.
- Networking between CIRDAP and other regional organisations needs expansion through a new strategic approach with full participation of CMCs.
- The proposed format/outline for RD Report 2007 should be revised by CIRDAP focusing on agrarian reform and rural development. It should go beyond ICARRD objectives and cover other areas like employment generation, rural governance and MDGs, non-farm sector etc., simultaneously downsizing and reshaping the indices already used for generating more focused country reports. Existing documents are to be utilised and the draft report prepared by CIRDAP is to be shared between countries for comments and suggestions before finalisation.
- CMCs may take necessary action to send their proposals to their respective Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development to raise the issue of repositioning rural development as an interdependent component of agrarian reform and to work for follow-up actions. It is suggested to present the countries view point that RD is important in FAO reform process.
- It was also suggested to include civil society representation in TC and other forums of CIRDAP for meaningful long-term partnership.
- Delegates appreciated the idea of strengthening infrastructure at CIRDAP. For financial contributions to build additional facilities at CIRDAP, suitable proposals may be placed at the next EC/GC meeting

Research

- Information-Knowledge Generation
- Policy Dialogues and Regional Consultations on RD/PA
- Mainstreaming Rural Development
- Rural Development Report
- Research Note

Focused Areas

- Agrarian Reform Community Level of Development Assessment
- Comprehensive Village Development Programme
- International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
- RD current trends and emerging issues
- RD institutional study
- CoP-MfDR
- Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanism
- Appropriate technology for rural women
- Gender development
- Regional Sustainable Rural Development Index
- Concepts and project proposals
- Rural Non-farm Sector in Transition



Discussion meeting on ICARRD paper prepared by CIRDAP

Research Division

CIRDAP drafted its new strategic framework in 2005 and 2006 was the year of processing and implementing the new strategies. Now, with a fresh look, CIRDAP shall be able to interpret the current rural development and poverty reduction needs of CMCs for the next years or decades to come and guarantee as well for the attainment of the expected RD results based on its mandate.

The recommendation made during the 25th Executive Committee Meeting held on 29-30 September 2005 that was approved during the 15th Governing Council Meeting, the Research Division was given the task to pursue the proposal on developing the Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanisms of rural development and poverty alleviation processes in the different CIRDAP member countries.

In order to animate the objectives of the proposal and in consonance with the suggestions made during the In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar of CIRDAP on December 2005, i.e., that Research Division has to regain its role in broadening new ideas, the division had set major steps:

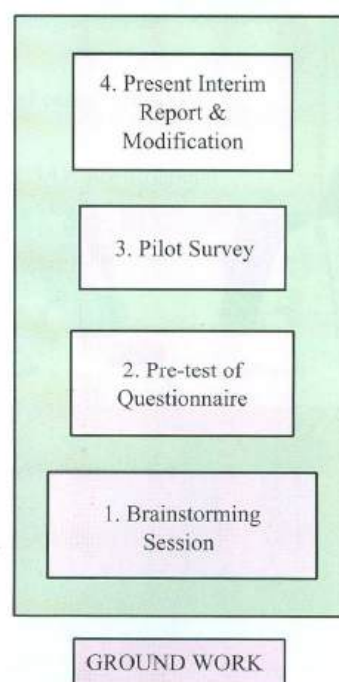
1. Information-knowledge generation initially by replicating an assessment tool
2. Policy dialogues and regional consultations on RD/PA requirements
3. Mainstreaming Rural Development

Information-Knowledge Generation

To give flesh for the expressed interest and spirit of promoting the idea of sharing successful RD programmes, policies, and projects potential for scaling up in CMCs, one mechanism was initially undertaken in Bangladesh. The proposal could be best facilitated first through an assessment survey on the levels of development of the various existing rural organisations, e.g. the Comprehensive Village Development Cooperative Societies in Bangladesh under the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) which is now implemented by four mandated agencies under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. Previously, it was solely under CIRDAP Link Institution, the Bangladesh Academy on Rural Development (BARD).

Using a development tool, the Agrarian Reform Community Level of Development Assessment (ALDA) model was selected to generate a comprehensive knowledge by building adequate information about the varying levels of development of the villages within the CVDP as key unit of analysis. The assessment results would provide information on specific future interventions (socio-economic and technical assistance) that are needed by the communities.

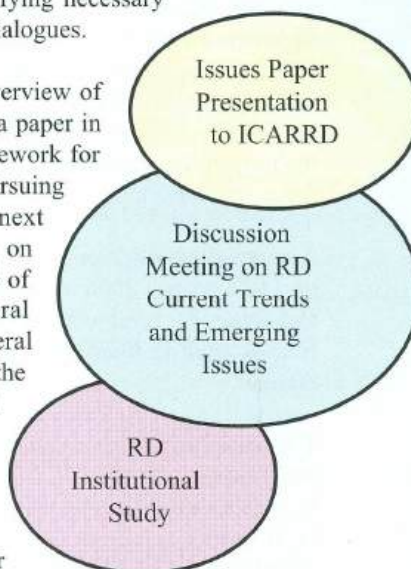
The Research Division had undertaken the groundwork on scaling up the ALDA model by facilitating for the brainstorming session in November 2005, pre-test of the questionnaire and pilot survey at randomly selected CVDP-covered villages and non-CVDP village in January 2006, and had presented the Interim Survey Report during the Modification Workshop held on 9 May 2006. In principle, the ALDA was accepted for the formal pilot survey in different villages being covered under CVDP. It was also implicitly implied that the four mandated agencies would help facilitate conducting the assessment survey.



Policy Dialogues and Regional Consultations on RD/PA

The informational unevenness does not facilitate coordination of various rural development and poverty alleviation efforts. When goals emanate from the top level, information flows in a state of invariance. There is also the tendency or in most cases, the rural communities are unable to get a general view of what they specifically need and harmonise their work. Measuring the levels of their development (low, medium, high) is creating the opportunity towards an efficient, effective and responsive kind of targeting the poor, soundly identifying necessary development interventions and opening for stakeholders' dialogues.

CIRDAP had conducted the institutional study on 'An Overview of Rural Development Efforts in Bangladesh' and presented a paper in the National Seminar on Revisiting the Institutional Framework for Promoting Rural Development in Bangladesh. Further, pursuing the aim of mainstreaming rural development in the next decades, CIRDAP had organised a Discussion Meeting on 'From the Peasant Charter to the ICARRD: An Overview of the Current Trends and Emerging Issues in Rural Development' in February 2006. The Director General subsequently presented the paper that was refined from the output of the discussion during the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) that was held on 7-10 March 2006 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



The challenge lies on what would be the scope for CIRDAP in the ICARRD follow-up actions apart from its aim to help in mainstreaming rural development across its member countries.

Building on the preliminary work undertaken in replicating the ALDA model is the long view of establishing the Regional Sustainable Rural Development Index (RSRDI). A concept proposal was presented during the OECD-DAC-ADB Conference for the Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results held on 30 August-1 September 2006 in Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

The concept proposal was submitted in view of growing demand for rigorous impact evaluation that is being linked with the advocacy for harmonisation and aid effectiveness. The ALDA's six key result areas with 58 indicators reflective of rural development and that the assessment ratings would lead to the establishment of the Sustainable Rural Development Index. A concept note on Evolving Sustainable Rural Development Index in Asia and the Pacific: Building Consensus for its Development was prepared, which seeks endorsement for technical assistance by the CoP-MfDR's interim body, e.g. upgrading the information technology infrastructure needs of CIRDAP as a partner-agency in promoting the principles of MfDR in the region.

This is likewise relevant to the special theme discussed in ICARRD last March 2006 (Mechanisms for follow-up and Indicators on Rural Development), which was organised by FAO-Rural Development Division (SDA). The ongoing discussions are on what would comprise FAO databank and conduct of impact evaluations on RD and PA- these are some new areas or scope of work being envisioned for the consideration of FAO-IFAD in one of its potential specialised projects under the ICARRD follow-up actions.

Moreover, this is in consonance with the current review of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)- Division for Sustainable Development on sustainable development indicators. The Expert Group Meeting on Indicators of Sustainable Development was held on 3-4 October 2006, UN Headquarters, New York. This is a preparatory session for the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on 30 April to May 2007.

Appropriate Technology for Rural Women

Historically, women used low level of technologies with low level of work output giving no scope to raise income or reducing poverty. Given that the majority of the rural poor survive on subsistence agriculture, appropriate and accessible technology can certainly reduce their economic vulnerability. In order to reduce the double burden of women's work through interventions, which reduce the work burden and drudgery of work and increase returns to labour. Appropriate available technologies, if adopted, may have positive impacts on women's lives. Thus the focus of the project underlined the fact that for uplifting women's conditions and counter-addressing their socio-economic marginalisation, certain criteria need to be fulfilled.

A regional consultation on Appropriate Technology for Rural Women consultation was organised on 14-16 August 2006 in Yangon, to share the findings of the cross-country studies on appropriate technology for rural women. The meeting examined the common issues and problems faced by the rural women in their effort to help increase the socio-economic status and well-being of their families.

The consultation was organised by CIRDAP in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Planning (DAP). Dr. Myint Thein, President of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries, was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session. The meeting was attended by 46 participants from various government and non-government organisations of the host country including six CIRDAP member countries: Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The meeting discussed the findings of the country studies conducted by CIRDAP in Pakistan and Myanmar as well as the country papers presented by other participating CMCs. An overview paper prepared by CIRDAP and an issue paper were also presented.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest opined that promoting the greater participation of women in decision-making will continue to be a priority. The task of social and economic empowerment of women therefore remains an area of concern for the countries of the region. He appreciated the role of CIRDAP being played for promoting rural development and addressing specific issues for the betterment of the people in the region. He hoped that the consultation would provide a valuable opportunity to the participants to exchange views and have in-depth discussion on the findings of the studies and benefit from sharing of experience.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP in his inaugural address expressed satisfaction for arranging the meeting as a collaborative effort between CIRDAP and Department and Agriculture Planning, Government of the Union of Myanmar. He mentioned that alleviation of poverty among the rural masses had been a major concern in the development agenda of the CMCs. Despite focus on poverty reduction programmes, the success in poverty reduction had been mixed in the region. He observed that the past experience suggested that adequate access of the poor to resources and their empowerment required fundamental departures in analytical framework, approach, attitude, and other features of poverty alleviation interventions. In this respect, he mentioned that CIRDAP is working relentlessly to improve the lot of the disadvantaged group in the region. He expressed the hope that the outcome of the present project would give ample opportunity to promote gender empowerment in the member countries.

Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Director, Research, CIRDAP, and Mr. Thinn Aung, Principal, Central Agricultural Research and Training Centre (CARTC), Myanmar also spoke on the occasion.

Major Issues and Recommendations

During the discussions, the participants raised issues and suggestions for review and action:

Issues

To overcome the vicious cycle of poverty in the rural areas, more services have to be delivered to enhance land, labour and capital so as to make the development initiatives more efficient and sustainable.

Education should be viewed as a critical element to improve the quality of life of rural women.

The role of the state in informal education and other institutions are needed to improve women's capacity.

Emphasis is needed to improve the human capital with other interactive factors such as money, material, and machine:

- Women's access to basic services be improved, e.g., in Myanmar: communication and transportation facilities and electricity coverage.
- Agricultural investments/promotion of SMEs
- Social services, elderly and children welfare acts; issues on child labour were also discussed being a serious concern in attacking poverty.

Recommendations

- The written recommendations from the Completion Reports of Myanmar and Pakistan should be taken up by CIRDAP.
- CIRDAP to design training programmes where rural women could improve their capacity and introduce projects that provide coping mechanisms for women in the villages.
- To introduce more pilot projects that deal with entrepreneurship development.
- To undertake relevant studies on gender/women development, e.g., evaluation and policy research that would broaden knowledge on the evolving roles of women in rural development.
- RD as an enduring development strategy to facilitate poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific.
- CIRDAP supports policy advocacy for National Policy for Rural Development in Myanmar where strategies would be formulated, programmes and projects are planned, implemented, and monitored.
- Facilitation for the discussion involving the issues on security of land tenure and landlessness.
- Establishment of mechanisms towards market access as landmark results of trainings and increased production—Provision of appropriate technology and infrastructure development, e.g., water systems.
- Entrepreneurship development using microcredit as vehicle.

Part of the objectives of Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanism (CKGRM), specifically on the key result area of Gender Development, CIRDAP organised the Concluding Regional Consultation for the project on Appropriate Technology for Rural Women in Yangon. Pakistan and Myanmar were the participating CMCs. In view of replicating similar project to other CMCs, such as Afghanistan, the Research Division had participated in the Afghan Gender Café Forum, website is <http://afghangendercafe.org>. CIRDAP could consider linking its website with it as CIRDAP Research Division begun a discussion and posted the topic, 'Knowledge Generation & Review Mechanisms on Afghan Women in the Sharing Resources Forum Index. From there, other useful links are listed on the official page for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, <http://www.af/>



Participants of the Regional Consultation on Appropriate Technology for Rural Women in Myanmar

Mainstreaming Rural Development

To streamline rural development, Research Division has expanded its research focus, developing some concepts and project proposals on some key areas that are felt-needed to respond to the demand of present world reality:

- Setting Up a Mechanism for Monitoring MDG and Preparation of Rural Development Report
- Situation Analysis on the Efforts for Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development of the Tsunami-affected Communities: Focus on the Multi-donor Assisted Projects for Strengthening M&E Process
- Development of Alternative Partnerships between CBOs/Private Sector and Public Sector for RD/PA
- Assessment of the Impacts of IFAD Sponsored Microfinance & Technical Support Project in Bangladesh
- Comprehensive knowledge Generation & Review Mechanisms of RD/PA
- Action Research on Food Security & Social Development for Community in the Border Areas
- Proposal for the conduct of Policy Dialogue on Success Story of Malaysia on Rural Transformation & Poverty Reduction
- Concept Proposal on Collaboration between SAARC and CIRDAP in Harmonising SAARC Development Goals' Indicators and Development of Low-cost Monitoring Methodologies.

Rural Development Report

In mainstreaming RD, Rural Development Report (RDR) of CIRDAP is playing a key role. CIRDAP has been preparing this biennial report since 1987, with the objectives of keeping the policymakers, planners and practitioners in the member countries abreast of current information and analysis of RD policies and strategies adopted and implemented in the Asia-Pacific region. RDR provides an update on the state of overall rural development scenario in the CMCs. The last report came out in 2005 covering the period 2005-2006.

RDR 2007 will be presented in the 16th Governing Council meeting of CIRDAP to be held in the Philippines in June 2007. It is envisaged that the RDR 2007 would be able to capture the different rural development initiatives taken in the CMCs from 2006 to 2007. The report would be anchored basically on a proposed RDR Index besides covering other common aspects of rural development.

Parallel with the idea of running the RSRDI and conduct of policy dialogues is the preparation and publication of RDR. Assessment ranking and policy dialogue results would be the core inputs in RDR. The process of preparing RDR has to be improved so it may become more meaningful and relevant to the CMCs. Their active involvement has to be encouraged and sustained.

Based on the recently concluded CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting on 12-14 September 2006 in Indonesia, the RDR 2007 shall be having a special focus on agrarian reform and rural development, which will be the main topic for discussion in the regional policy dialogue. Besides, several critical issues on agrarian reform and rural development were presented and discussed in the ICARRD.

RDR 2007 aims not to duplicate any of the ICARRD papers but does not preclude any to dwell thousand times on the perennial values, controversies, current and future needs relevant in promoting agrarian reform and rural development. RDR 2007 rather appreciates the renewed attention to these themes; hence, CIRDAP with its Mandate supports the same advocacies that promote reform in agrarian societies and for their advancement.

Tentative Thinking for 2007 Workplan

Selected Issues & New Areas of undertaking for CIRDAP through Research Division

- ☐ Building Landmarks in Agrarian Reform: Access to Markets
 - ❖ Survey On Markets & Community Food Systems
 - Making Them Work in Poor Rural Communities
 - ❖ Capacity Assessment Survey (Marketing/ Livelihood Development)
 - ❖ Infrastructure & Organisational Development Project (Farmers Markets ... Bridge to Urban Markets: From Cooperatives to Corporations)
- ☐ Rural Development Report 2009
 - ❖ Evolving Sustainable Rural Development Index in the Region
 - Scaling up ALDA Tool model (Conference, training workshops and surveys)
- ☐ FAO-IFAD-CIRDAP (Linkage via website/CIRDAP provides rural development information to FAO Database: SRDI)

Rural Non-farm Sector in Transition

An extensive review of the current literature reveals that the rural non-farm sector (RNAs) constitutes an important segment of the rural economy, providing between 30 to 60 per cent of jobs and rural household incomes in rural Asia. They are greatly diverse, dispersed over wide areas covering both villages and rural towns, and characterised by dualistic features manifesting both dynamic and residual activity categories.

While RNAs are growing passing through varying growth trajectory, i.e. growth? decline? and? recovery, the major drivers of such growth are agricultural development, urbanisation, rural-urban linkages and growth of the rural economy. Available evidence on the impacts of RNA growth on rural poverty and inequality are mixed, but the available information takes a positive view on the economic contributions of these activities as vehicles of accelerated rural development, poverty alleviation, reduction in rural-urban income gaps and migration, and overall national economic growth. However, data limitations and information gaps affecting the current RNAs research and the evidence provided by them on their full potential worth suggest urgency for carrying further insightful research into various dimensions of the sector's growth and dynamism.

Despite being an important component of the rural economy in most Asian countries with notable prospects for future growth, the RNAs suffer from many operational constraints which need to be removed to unleash their full growth and expansion possibilities. While conscious and deliberate policy interventions are needed to promote development of the RNAs, the policy interventions have to be designed and fine-tuned to meet the specific needs of the greatly heterogeneous sub-sets located in different locations across countries and across regions with the countries. Pro-active agricultural development, improved physical and social infrastructures, sound legal and regulatory environment, and an effective well-coordinated institutional network for efficient delivery of support services constitute the important elements of the proposed pro-active policy intervention package

For more details, please see, Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development, Special Issue Volume XVI, July 2006.

Pilot Projects

- Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia
- Capacity Building of People's Organisation under Model Villages in Rural Development
- Initiative for Coordination of Promising Integrated Rural Development Projects in Bangladesh
- Collaboration with FAO: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Areas
- Vision for 2007 and Beyond

Focused Areas

- Scaling up and linking organisations of the rural poor
- Capacity building of rural poor organisations
- Microcredit
- Institutional capacity building
- Dissemination of best practices of integrated rural development projects



Meeting with review mission from IFAD on SCOPE activities

Pilot Projects Division

The pilot projects are designed in response to felt-needs of the community or formulated with a view to solving the problems faced by the community in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). They serve two objectives. One is to generate field-level knowledge and the other is for interventions which would lead to mitigating the sufferings of the community. Within the rural development context, pilot projects promote the participation of 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; formal and non-formal education, human resource development; rural resource mobilisation, and strengthening the community-based organisations of the poor etc.

The activities performed by the Division during 2006 are as follows:

Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor

The project 'Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia (SCOPE)', funded by IFAD, has started since June 2004. It is a three year project being implemented jointly by Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and CIRDAP. Countries under SCOPE are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines.

Overall goal of SCOPE 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 development actions of community-based organisations (CBOs) and promote scaling-up and policy linkages of CBOs through their clusters and federations.

In the process, the project will enhance the skills of IFAD project staff and civil society organisation (CSO) partners to implement field-tested tools and approaches to support and sustain CBO development actions. To enhance the skills of IFAD project staff and CSO partners, IFAD has identified one IFAD project each in the five countries for SCOPE to conduct and assess in-country up-scaling and capacity-building needs. Of the five countries, CIRDAP is responsible for



CIRDAP- ANGOC- AVARD meeting in session



The Third Steering Committee Meeting of SCOPE project in Bangkok, Thailand

the activities in Bangladesh and India, and ANGOC is responsible for Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines.

Sunamganj Community-Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) in Bangladesh and Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) in India were identified for capacity building intervention activities of SCOPE Project in 2005.

To achieve the objectives of the project under capacity-building component, SCOPE Grant Project was created for each IFAD funded project identified for SCOPE. Of the two projects SCBRMP has submitted the proposal for SCOPE Grant (US\$20,750) and CIRDAP has released eighty per cent of the grant (US\$16,600) to SCBRMP to conduct the training courses for capacity building of the community development facilitators (CDFs) of SCBRMP.

SCBRMP has consulted with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and World Fish to conduct the trainings for its CDFs. SCBRMP itself also conducts the capacity building trainings for its CDFs.

BARD has been conducting the training courses for the CDFs starting from July 2006, and its part is supposed to be completed in July 2007. Trainings include: Good Governance and Development; Conflict Resolution; and Self-Development Group Management.



Participants of a training programme under SCOPE project



Interacting with co-operative members of CVDP

The trainings conducted by World Fish have started in September 2006 and are scheduled to be completed in July 2007. Major topics of the training conducted by World Fish for SCBRMP CDFs include Introduction of Open Water Fisheries Resource in Bangladesh and its Importance; Fisheries Resources in Project Area; Community Based Fisheries Management Approach in Fisheries Management; Fisheries Ecosystem and Beel Habitat Management; Introduction of Fisheries Management (technical aspects); Enhancement of Fisheries Resources; Fingerling Stocking and Maintenance; Fish Catch Monitoring; and Conflict Resolution among others. The practical training on fish catch survey was very effective and the trainees received that with full contentment.



Training for CDFs and SOs by World Fish Centre in Sunamgonj



Capacity building training in progress

For OTELP, at first it opted to incorporate the capacity building trainings recommended by assessment consultant into their original plan and implement with the budget from IFAD project. But after mid-term review of the project, it has shown interest to re-conduct the capacity building needs assessment and to implement the capacity building trainings with SCOPE Grant support.

Capacity Building of People's Organisations under MVRD Project

The Model Village in Rural Development (MVRD) project is in second phase, running with seed capital saved from income-generating activities. Previous phase of this project was five years with effect from 1999 November to 2004 October and implemented in Ratnabati Village and Shimpur Village under Comilla Sadar Thana.

Extension of this project was signed on 27 December 2004 at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) between CIRDAP and BARD, the Link Institution of CIRDAP in Bangladesh.

Objectives

The long-term objective of MVRD project is to evolve a replicable model of rural development (RD), which is expected to bring about an overall improvement of the villagers through active participation of the community people in the entire process of the change and development.

The specific objectives are:

1. to build up an institutional set up for all-round development
2. to equip the villagers with various skill training
3. to involve the villagers in all steps of project implementation activities
4. to help the villagers meet their nutritional demand
5. to make effort for developing a cadre of development workers.

Strategies

To achieve the objectives, project implementation body uses strategies such as group formation, capital formation through weekly savings, credit operation, and awareness building on socio-economic development.

Achievements

Given that MVRD project rooted in early 1990s, it has been more than one decade of implementation. Over the years, eight informal groups formed with 232 members have accumulated savings which totalled Taka 289,534. Total credit disbursed was Taka 2,317,000 and credit received by individual varied from Taka 3,000 to Taka 10,000 based on the income-generating activity chosen. Income-generating activities taken up include petty business, poultry rearing, beef fattening, cow rearing, and fish cultivation. Achievements obtained could be described as significant since the project beneficiaries were from the real grassroots level.

Choices and Behaviour for Loan Repayment

Very flexible loan repayment system was established for those grass-root beneficiaries. They can repay the loan on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or yearly as they preferred. Interest rate (9%) applies to the loan taken by the beneficiaries, which is mutually agreed between BARD and Sonali Bank, government commercial bank, as one of the objectives of the project is to make a link between beneficiaries and the government bank. This is lower than any private bank (20%) or local money lender (120%). So project beneficiaries prefer to get the loan from the project. As beneficiaries desire to receive credit from MVRD project rather than from NGOs, loan repayment recovery is 100 per cent.

Findings so far

As the Project Director sees and the documents available suggest, some interesting findings that are indicating inner changes in the socio-economic development structure of the rural communities are stated below:

- Women are more efficient to utilise credit, and thereby add extra income for their family, which increases their status in the family as well as in the society.
- Target based microcredit programme is an essential input for poverty alleviation of the rural poor.
- Flexible repayment of credit does not have negative impact on credit repayment. In addition, it relieves the borrowers from mental agony of weekly repayment pressure. Weekly repayment system is not very helpful for the borrowers as it takes away more profit of their business.
- The bigger the size of the group, the more credit discipline is ensured.
- More service is ensured from the locally appointed community workers as the workers face more pressure from local residents and are more accountable to local beneficiaries.

Initiative for Coordination of Promising IRD Projects in BD

The very initial discussion regarding coordination of four selected integrated rural development (IRD) projects of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MOLGRD&C) was held at CIRDAP HQs. on 3 October 2006. IRD Expert Professor Yoshihiro Kaida, PRDP-2 Project Director Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, former PRDP-1 Project Director, and CIRDAP professionals took part in the discussion.

The idea of this coordination rooted from the presentation of IRD Expert Professor Yoshihiro Kaida during the Twenty-second regular meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee, titled 'Revisiting the Integrated Rural Development (IRD): Bangladesh and Japan'. The salient features of the four selected IRD projects, namely, Sirajganj Local Government Development Fund Project (SLGDFP); Local Development Coordination Programme (LDCP); Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP); and Participatory Rural Development Project (PRDP), were highlighted by Professor Kaida during his presentation. The four selected IRD projects have common features as well as limitations, and they would make space for more benefits if they could be coordinated or synchronised under some kind of umbrella type organisation.

Discussion with the Project Directors

As it was important to understand thoroughly about the objectives and strategies of the four IRD projects before planning for coordination, Project Directors of the selected four IRD Projects, along with IRD Expert Professor Kaida, and former Director General of CIRDAP Link Institution, BARD, Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam were invited to CIRDAP HQs. to have discussion, on 18 October 2006. At the discussion Project Directors presented strong and weak points of their projects, and accordingly potential areas for coordination were identified.



Discussion meeting in progress

Main findings from the discussion for potential coordination that could give way to greater benefit include strengthening of the administrative capacity of the local governance and related organisation by introducing and capacitating new mechanism; empowerment of women with impact on civil society in village-based organisation; participatory performance assessment at the Union Parishad level involving general public and villagers; open budget session which encourages villagers' participation in the discussion; creation of a multi-purpose single village institution involving all the different types of associations, groups, cooperatives under one umbrella; to strengthen vertical coordination of Nation Building Departments (NBDs) at Upazila and Union Parishad levels; coordination of the services of different NBDs at Union Level horizontally; replication of the idea of village committee under PRDP-2 which comprises villagers

representing para or gusti (social units under a village); coordination of different stakeholders including Union Parishad, NBDs, local NGOs and Village Committee Representatives; selection and training of human resources for Union Development Officer and Organiser for better coordination among different stakeholders; building of social capital through implementing infrastructure of common interest; better development coordination at the local level to have close interaction among the Union Parishad, officials of various development agencies at the union/field level; creation of self-employment and development of the standard of living; developing credit and marketing programme; local level planning or bottom-up planning; creation of rural industry for employment generation for women landless and rural land poor; bringing children into the scenario to motivate them for the leadership and to train them for planning process; replication of the so-called 'mini-parliament' UCCM under PRDP-2; replication of women forum under LDGP; and, Improving capacities of local government institutions and other departments to implement participatory development planning.

Next Step

Pilot Projects Division of CIRDAP, in collaboration with IRD Expert, plans to organise a field trip to the four selected IRD projects and to hold a seminar with various line departments and agencies involved in IRD in early 2007.



Fish farming in a project area

Collaboration with FAO

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Areas

Initial contact with FAO for potential collaboration with the project Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Areas (SARD-M) began in November 2005. Both organisations expressed mutual interest to collaborate in the field of sustainable agriculture and rural development. The matter was taken to SARD-M Project Steering Committee Meeting where they presented the various options they sought to expand their activities in February 2006. Unfortunately, SARD-M Project Steering Committee decided to expand their activities in Sub-Saharan Africa region only.

But CIRDAP name was added to SARD-M online database of organisation programmes and projects dealing with SARD-M related issues. CIRDAP was introduced to SARD-M web-based database containing documentation related to social, economic, environmental, and institutional policies for SARD in mountain areas.

CIRDAP was also added to SARD-M electronic mailing list, and, upon CIRDAP's request 'Invitation for articles for Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Development' was put on 'Open space' section of SARD-M website.

Looking Beyond - The Vision

The developments in the new millennium point towards market-oriented strategies resulting in the withdrawal or changed role of the state. It would also witness a myriad of organisations like self-help groups, producer organisations, civil society organisations including NGOs and local governments filling the vacuum created by the state withdrawal. This creates a window of opportunity for people's participation and community involvement. Against this background, the division plans to focus on:

- Developing innovative projects using bottom-up approach for poverty alleviation and rural development.
- Capacity building of the community through participatory processes in all phases of project cycle including participatory monitoring and evaluation.
- Promoting sustainable development through social mobilisation at community level.
- Using microfinance and training for skill development for improving the rural livelihood systems.
- Including income-generation activities in developing the project proposals.
- Forging a tripartite alliance among GO, NGO and community through CARD methodology.

Training

Regional Programmes

- Rural Good Governance in Asia
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Role of Local Govt. in Delivery of Services and Poverty Reduction
- Enhancing Women's Role in SME Development
- GIS Application for Rural Development
- Application of ICT in Rural Development
- Watershed Development
- Methodologies of Designing & Implementing PA Programmes

Training-cum-Exposure Visits

- Indian Officials in Bangladesh
- Nepalese Officials in Bangladesh

Focused Areas

- Good governance
- People's participation
- Decentralisation
- Restructuring rural institutions
- E-governance
- Regional cooperation
- Enhancing capacities
- Efficient service delivery
- Best practices
- Microfinance institutions
- Small and medium enterprises



During the concluding session of ICT in rural development in CIRDAP region in Sri Lanka

Training Division

As a regional organisation designed to provide technical support and promote integrated rural development (IRD) in the Asia-Pacific region, it is logical that among the first activities to be taken up would be a training support to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). In the early years of its operation, the training programmes were basically geared towards advancing the cause of IRD, its concept and strategies. It moved on to providing training in the areas of general planning, monitoring and evaluation, project analysis, training methodologies and training management. By 1990, CIRDAP training took up other concerns such as disaster management, environment, gender, participatory approaches in planning, POPMAP application, and microcredit. In recent years Training Division focused its concern in the areas of information and communication technology, geographic information system, watershed programmes, good governance, and role of local government in service delivery for poverty alleviation.

Regional Programmes

Rural Good Governance in Asia

The Commonwealth Secretariat - CIRDAP Collaborative Workshop on 'Sharing Successful Experiences on Poverty Focussed Rural Good Governance in Asian Commonwealth Countries' was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka, from 27 to 31 May 2006. More than 30 participants and resource persons from Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka took part in this five-day workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh. The inaugural session was also addressed by Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Workshop Director and Director (Training), CIRDAP.

This workshop is the third initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat and CIRDAP to highlight the good governance concept, to influence the existing local government structure in the less developed countries, to reform and restructure local government institutions/organisations in the rural areas, to redesign institutional targets of the local government, and to ensure people's participation in the rural development activities. This workshop also discussed a roadmap to good governance so that the governments, private sector, multi-national corporations (MNCs), non-government organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), etc. in the Commonwealth and CIRDAP member countries, can be good administrators and visionaries and can look forward to sustainable coalitions and partnerships.

Sharing of successful experiences on local good governance can play a major role in the Asian countries to help them administer, restructure and redesign their local governance to ensure rural good governance in all aspects. Accordingly, the five themes of the workshop have been identified:

- Theme - I : Governance through People's Institutions (SHGs, cooperatives, women's associations, civil society participation, NGO - GO - private sector participation etc.).
- Theme - II : Decentralised Governance Policy (Rural networking, democratisation and decentralisation of authority in planning and monitoring).
- Theme - III: Participation of the Poor (Voice in policy, project cycle management and voluntary, associations and local bodies) in promoting a competitive land space and inclusiveness.
- Theme - IV: Rural Institutional Restructuring (Pro-poor service delivery in education, health, housing, etc. through restructured organisation, with people's participation).
- Theme - V : ICTs to Improve Governance (e-society, e-governance, infrastructure, capacity building).



Group discussion among participants

Field Visits

Field visits for the participants were organised by BRAC and LGED.

Valedictory Session

The workshop ended on 31 May 2006. The valedictory session was presided over by Sk. A.K. Motahar Hossain, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry for Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Outcome

After the presentation and deliberation of papers and case studies by the country representatives and experts, the delegates were divided into three groups for five themes. The groups after analysing the context of the themes made their comments, suggestions and recommendations.

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of promoting regional cooperation and enhancing capacities for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a Trainers' Training Programme for officials of CIRDAP member countries was conducted in Kathmandu, Nepal during 21-30 June 2006 on 'Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation'.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, was the venue. CIRDAP signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ICIMOD in April 2006 for cooperation between the two international organisations, and this programme is the first initiative for such cooperation.

The training programme was organised by CIRDAP in association with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India; Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Kathmandu, Nepal; and ICIMOD. The member governments of CIRDAP and ICIMOD nominated 26 participants to attend the programme. Resource persons were drawn from NIRD, CIRDAP, ICIMOD, LDTA and other international organisations based in Kathmandu.

H.E. Mr. Rajendra Pandey, Minister for Local Development, Government of Nepal, inaugurated the training programme on 21 June 2006. Among others Mr. Yuba Raj Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal; Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP;

Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD; and Mr. Nayan Bahadur Khadka, Executive Director, LDТА, spoke on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Minister in his speech mentioned that the present Government of Nepal has its strong commitment towards policy reforms in areas such as civil service, governance, transparency and others. Other major reform challenges include private sector growth, rural development and private-public partnership, decentralisation, empowering civil society, strengthening of the local authorities, good monitoring mechanism, women empowerment, and empowerment of the disadvantaged groups and minorities. This can only be achieved if institutions that are established become effective partners. He welcomed greater partnership between ICIMOD, LDТА and CIRDAP.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal expressed his thanks to the Government of India and ICIMOD in general and NIRD in particular for their funding and technical support to CIRDAP and its member countries. He also thanked Mr. Khadka, Executive Director, LDТА, and Mr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD, for collaborating with CIRDAP and sharing the burden by extending logistic support to organise this programme. He looks forward for such opportunities in future to work with ICIMOD in other countries as well.

Mr. Yuba Raj Pandey was glad that participants would be visiting some projects and interacting with user groups.

Mr. Nayan Bahadur Khadka expressed that in its ultimate, participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME) should serve to enhance analytical capabilities of the community and empower them to question to do things in a better way and to become pro-active partners in all governmental and development initiatives.

Dr. Madhav Karki expressed his happiness to be a partner to organise this international training programme. He assured all support to CIRDAP and NIRD to organise the programme successfully. He was particularly thankful to the Minister for gracing the occasion and it was a good support to all the partners in the training programme.

The countries participated in the programme include Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A total of 27 participants and 12 resource persons participated in the programme.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP; Dr. S.K. Bhanja, Professor and Head, CPME, NIRD; and Mr. Farid Ahmad, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of ICIMOD appraised the participants about the training programme and logistic arrangements followed by country paper presentations by the country delegates.

Besides a series of lecture sessions, the participants were involved in group discussions, group work and group presentations on Stakeholder Analysis; Results and Impact Management (RIM) Application; Participatory M&E Tools and Techniques and design and facilitate a training programme.

Field Visits

There were field visits to ICIMOD's Godavari Test and Demonstration Site and UNDP projects in Pokhara. The delegates visited ICIMOD's Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari. The site is used to test, select and demonstrate different technologies and (farming and agroforestry) practices useful for sustainable development and natural resource management; to train farmer and those who work with them; and as a repository for plant germplasm resources.

The delegates were also divided into two groups to visit two different Village Development Committees (VDCs), namely, Sardikhola VDC and Srankot VDC. The delegates had interactions with the members of Gairekhore Community Organisation at Kot Kachari Village and Kalpabriksha Community Organisation.



A field visit

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was held on 30 May 2006 with H.E. Mr. Rajendra Pandey, Minister for Local Development, Government of Nepal, in the Chair. Mr. Yuba Raj Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal; Mr. V.S. Sampath, Director General, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD); Dr. Gabriel Campbell, Director General, ICIMOD; and Mr. Nayan Bahadur Khadka, Executive Director, LDTA, Kathmandu, spoke on the occasion.

The Minister awarded certificates to the participants.

Role of Local Govt. in Delivery of Services and Poverty Reduction

The NIRD-CIRDAP Collaborative Regional Training Programme on Role of Local Government in Delivery of Services and Poverty Reduction was held from 28 August 2006 to 9 September 2006 at the CIRDAP headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The programme was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of the Government of Bangladesh on 28 August 2006. Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, also attended the programme.

In his inaugural speech, H.E. Mannan Bhuiyan mentioned that timely delivery of services by local government is a critical area that should be emphasised. The government of Bangladesh is trying to promote human capital, improve social services, strengthen social safety nets, promote gender equality and promote participation of the poor in development projects at the local levels. Efforts to complement and supplement the activities of various development partners in the local level development arena are yielding good results, he added.

Mr. Rafiqul Islam, in his speech, stated that the local governments are to coordinate multiple functions of central government agencies and coordinate with other development stakeholders more effectively. To complement these efforts, the services of all stakeholders in coordination with the local government institutions are laudable. But, still more tangible results are needed through the most effective institutional framework at the local level to reduce poverty, particularly from the rural areas.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal mentioned that the Centre has been trying to transfer best practices in rural development from one country to another, besides their wider dissemination both in member and non-member countries. The microcredit model of Bangladesh is one such success case that gained wider recognition through our training-cum-exposure visit programmes. This present training programme aims at promotion of best practices in service delivery by local bodies, and Bangladesh is a good example of GO-NGO cooperation in this regard.

Sixteen participants from eleven CIRDAP member countries of the Asia-Pacific region - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the training.



A presentation by SLGDF project

Field Visits

In addition to classroom lectures, there were extensive field visits to Tangail, Sirajganj and Bogra districts to familiar the participants with the successful cases. The participants were taken to Sirajganj Local Government Development Project (SLGDP) in Sirajganj District. SLGDP, a US\$8.9 million project, was initiated in June 2000. The project is co-funded by United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh. The main objective is to build capacity for effective UP participation in local governance and development management.

The participants visited another local governance initiative, Participatory Rural Development Project (PRDP-2) under Kalihati Upazila of Tangail District. PRDP-2 is managed by Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) with financial support from Japan International Cooperation

Agency (JICA). The Project Director of PRDP-2 and Prof. Yoshihiro Kaida, Chief Adviser of the project briefed them about the project with Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) in the Chair. Participatory Rural Development Project Phase-II (PRDP-2) started in June 2005 and would be continued for five years in succession to PRDP-1 which had been implemented from April 2000 to April 2004. PRDP-2 aims to formulate innovative rural development model through Link Model. Link means: (1) vertical link between Union and Villages, and (2) horizontal link among Union Parishad members, Nation Building Departments Officials and Village Representatives.

On the third day of field visit, the delegates visited the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra. One of the basic functions of the Academy is to facilitate, organise and provide training to the personnel of GOs and NGOs, elected representatives of local government bodies, rural women, youth, cooperators, private sector stakeholders and farmers to create a cadre of professionals in the field of rural development.

A session was arranged on the Char Livelihood Project (CLP) funded by DFID. Mr. A.T.M. Mohiuddin, Project Director, CLP, briefly described about the project followed by power-point presentation of Mr. Ronald Hadson, Project Coordinator, about the project. The main features of CLP are: (a) 170,000 Households with Concentration on Landless and Assetless, Emphasis on Monga (food crisis) reduction through Cash for Work; and (b) Increasing Household Income 'Core Beneficiary' Households, Implement Asset Transfer (Taka 20,000 per HH in grant and stipend). The delegates also visited one microfinance institute namely, BURO at Tangail. Mr. Pranesh Banik, Coordinator, Microfinance Immersion and Capacity Building, BURO, briefed the delegates about the activities of BURO. Later the delegates divided in two groups visited microfinance clients at two different villages. The delegates interacted with the grassroots level clients of BURO.

Outcome

On the basis of classroom deliberations and on the hand exposure to the field, the participants were divided into two groups to prepare group reports and come up with some sort of recommendations.

Enhancing Women's Role in SME Development

In pursuance of the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CIRDAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Indonesia in March 2005, CIRDAP/SOCSEA and NAM-CSSTC in their efforts to support the global effort in achieving the MDGs, in addressing the gender issues, the Training Workshop on Enhancing Women's Role in SMEs Development was arranged as the third joint cooperation project for South-South cooperation. The training workshop was held in Bali, Indonesia between 18 and 22 September 2006. The programme was attended by 17 participants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In developing countries, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as a group produce an overwhelming proportion of national production and provide the largest employment opportunities for the population. Yet in most developing countries, these large groups of enterprises have not been accorded sufficient attention in development plans and policies.

The main objectives set for the training workshop were to encourage the participants to be able to:

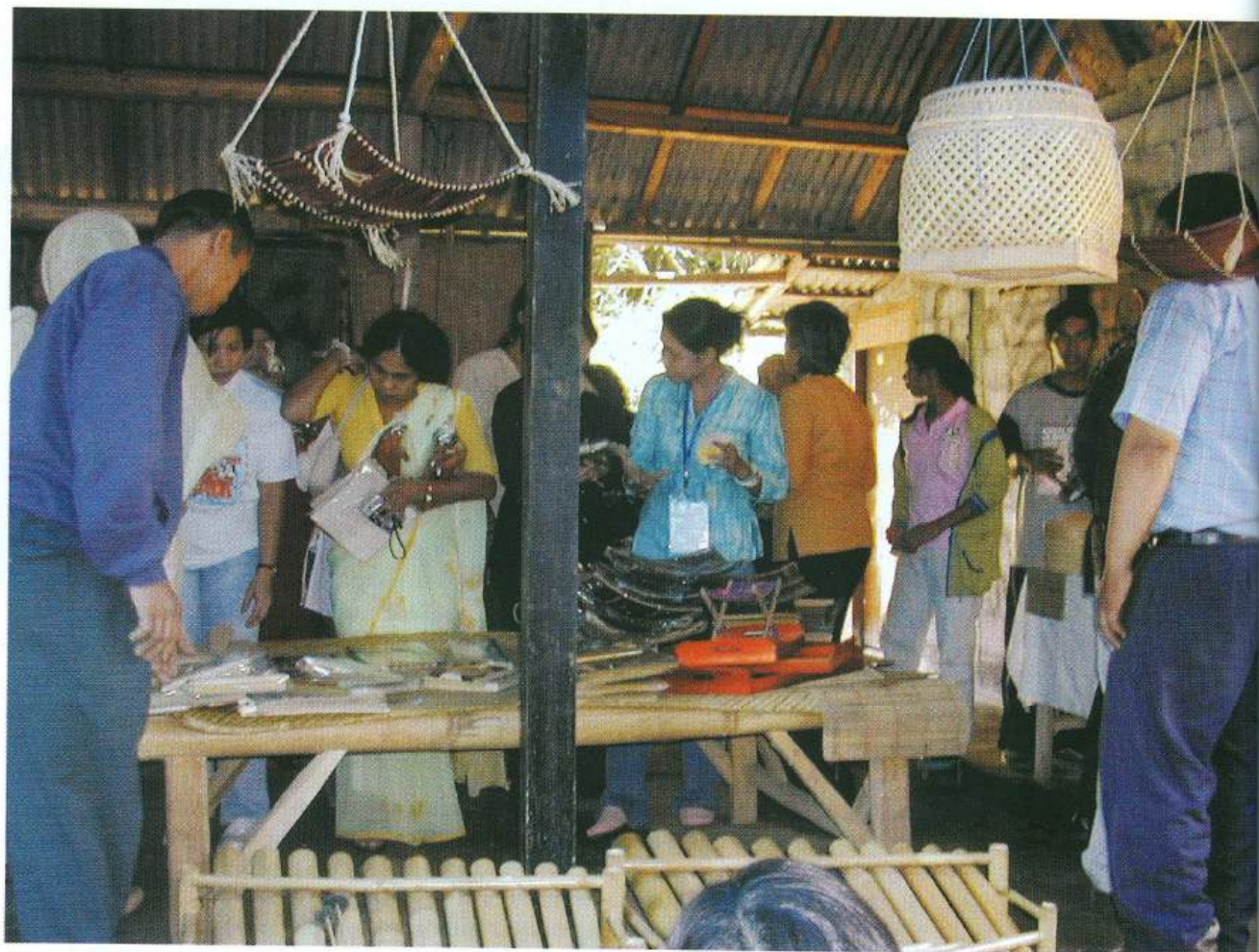
- Update their knowledge on the policy frameworks, operational schemes and field experiences of SMEs development, exclusively the women's role, by different CIRDAP and NAM countries;
- Exchange of experiences and best practices in the development of SMEs;
- Enhance capacity to develop and manage national SMEs and develop collective efforts through appropriate network within the framework for empowerment of women; and
- Prepare an action plan specifically to empower women in the SMEs development.

The training programme was inaugurated by H.E. Prof. Dr. Meutia Hatta Swasono, State Minister for Women's Empowerment, Government of the Republic of Indonesia. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mrs. Kasmawati, Special Assistant to the Minister for Women Empowerment of the Republic of Indonesia; Ms. Esti Andayani, Director of Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Indonesia; Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP.

H.E. Dr. Meutia Hatta Swasono, in her speech, mentioned that attention to women and their role in SMEs development is very important and strategic, as women are agents of change that are usually neglected. Majority of microenterprises are run by women in Indonesia, and those women entrepreneurs have not been recognised as many of them run their businesses informally. SMEs, including microenterprises, are the largest business unit and account for more than 99 per cent of the total business units in Indonesia. They are mainly in agricultural sector, with about 60 per cent and contribute around 56 per cent of the total SMEs' GDP.

Field Visit

In addition to classroom sessions to discuss the above topics, the delegates were taken for an extensive field visit to successful SMEs in Bali. One of those successful SMEs is Yayasan Wahana Kria Putri (YWKP) based in Bali. In response to the poverty in Bali, two indigenous women with the purpose of serving the grassroots Indonesian community founded the Wahana Kria Putri Foundation (WKP) on May 21, 1996 in Denpasar Bali. WKP was set up as a fully autonomous, indigenously staffed and governed organisation, and sought to serve the community through the



A field visit

delivery of microenterprise development (MED) services to women. Specifically, WKP aims to reach low-income widows and women with families in rural areas, and unemployed with low education and street vendors in the urban areas.

Valedictory Session

The training workshop concluded on 22 September 2006 where Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao was the chief guest. In his speech Dr. Rao mentioned that CIRDAP mission is to enlarge regional cooperation and exchange of information amongst countries. He particularly mentioned that this is the first programme where only women participation, with a gender bias, is targeted.

Dr. Rao awarded certificates among the participants.

Outcome

The outcome of the training workshop is a set of recommendations prepared by the participants. The participants were assigned to discuss in four groups on four different issues such as (1) Fiscal and Legislative action; (2) Access to Appropriate Business Development Support; (3) Access to Finance and Financial Services; and (4) Community and Family Support.

GIS Application for Rural Development

The Regional Training Programme on 'Geographic Information System (GIS) Application for Rural Development' was held at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India on 3-14 October 2006. A total of 13 officials from 11 CIRDAP member countries, namely Afghanistan, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the programme.

In the Asia-Pacific region, poverty is a big human problem. It requires proper integration of human, management of physical and natural resources, technological and institutional interventions to ensure sustainability while framing the rural development and poverty alleviation policies and programmes in this region. 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.

In this context the regional training programme on GIS Application for Rural Development was jointly taken up by CIRDAP and NIRD. The training programme aimed to:

- i. Examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in rural development, natural resources management and environment in the countries of the region, review current use of the GIS and IT in rural development, and identify the potential areas where the GIS and IT related applications can play an effective role;
- ii. 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;
- iii. Present case studies on application of the GIS and IT in specific areas for dissemination at the regional level; and
- iv. Strengthen capacity building efforts of member countries through training so as to accelerate rural development and poverty reduction in the region to achieve MDGs.

The programme contents covered the following three areas- 1) Introduction and Concepts of GIS, RS & GPS-Use in Rural Development; 2) Exposure to Geo-informatics applications in Natural Resources Management, Watershed Development and Microlevel Planning; and 3) Familiarise Software -modules applicable to RD.

Field Visits

Apart from the classroom sessions, participants were taken to some sites on a study visit and historical places of interest and tourist spots in the city of Hyderabad Bangalore and Mysore. At Hyderabad, the participants were taken to Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University where the briefing session was arranged, focusing the areas of working particularly with reference to the GIS and its application. This was followed by the practical demonstration of a satellite tower of the University. Participants also visited Rural Technology Park of NIRD and took keen interest in learning much technological advancement demonstrated in the park. At Bangalore the participants were taken to the Taluk Office to see the computerised land record system. At Mysore, the participants were taken to The Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD).



The participants during a visit to SIRD

Valedictory Session

At the end of the 12-day training programme, the valedictory session was held on 14 October, 2006 chaired by Dr. N. Upadhaya, Director, NIRD North Eastern Regional Centre. Dr. Madhava Rao, Course Director, briefly mentioned about the organisation of the programme. The Chief Guest felt happy for the successful conclusion of the programme and hoped that the training would be useful for the participants in their back home situation. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, in his remarks, mentioned that with the grants-in-aid support from Government of India, CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD has been organising training programmes since 2003 for sharing experiences between and among CIRDAP member countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Course completion certificates were awarded among the participants by the Chief Guest.

Application of ICT in Rural Development

CIRDAP, in its efforts to assist the countries of the Asia-Pacific region in promoting sustainable rural development, has been pursuing activities that can create mechanism for integration of human and institutional dimension with technological innovation.

In view of pursuing its ICT approaches, CIRDAP, in cooperation with NIRD and HARTI, organised a Regional Training Programme on 'ICT Applications for Rural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region' on 14-23 November 2006 at HARTI in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

CIRDAP's Link Institute in Sri Lanka Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) was the venue of the training programme. National Institute of Rural

Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, collaborated with CIRDAP and HARTI. The funding was provided by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and HARTI was the host institution providing general facilities.

The programme was inaugurated by H.E. Prof. Tissa Vitharana, Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Sri Lanka. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Tissa Warnasuriya, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Sri Lanka; Mr. V.K. Nanayakkara, Director, HARTI; Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP; and Dr. C. Krishna Gopal, Professor and Head, CIT&QT, NIRD, Hyderabad, India.

H.E. Prof. Tissa Vitharana, in his inaugural address, mentioned CIRDAP member countries should face and compete with the global challenges, and for that goal, ICT should be taken to the doorstep of villagers. Especially he was mentioning the Vidatha Programme of Sri Lanka to bring the benefits of science and technology to the village level. Under the programme, his ministry has planned to set up computerised resource centres in every Divisional Secretariat of Sri Lanka. The ministry has already opened 149 such centres countrywide.

He also said that in order to develop business activities at village, these resource centres will be linked with the Vidatha societies set up at village level. These centres will also assist in developing the agricultural, natural and human resources in the rural areas. 'We have to reach village level and provide benefits to every rural man and woman. This can be successfully done through the promotion of ICT sector', he said.

Sixteen participants from CIRDAP countries viz., Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the programme in addition to the experts drawn from India and Sri Lanka. The participants were at senior level and committed to action or acceptance of follow-up responsibility.



Chief Guest H.E. Tissa Vitharana (C) during the inaugural session

The regional training programme aimed 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;
- Review current use of the ICT in rural development, and identify the potential areas where the ICT-related application can play an effective role;

- Exchange ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing the IC technologies;
- Assess the feasibility of meeting the regional needs based on existing manpower, software, hardware and data availability; and
- Assess the training needs and resource requirements at the country level.

The general objectives of the programme were:

- To promote effective networking among the relevant institutions in the countries of the region;
- To address common rural development issues and promote information sharing, and increase South-South cooperation;
- To present case studies on application of the ICT 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 MDGs.

Valedictory Session

The concluding session was held at the Global Tower Hotel, Colombo, with a dinner hosted by Mr. Nanayakkara. Senior officers of the Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Sri Lanka, were present on the occasion marked with a cultural programme by the Department of Youth Affairs.

The participants from India, Lao PDR, Nepal and the Philippines, on behalf of all country representatives, spoke and paid tributes to the organisers for making grand arrangements and for sharing new knowledge. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sudhakar Rao.

Mr. W.M. Jayathilake, Additional Secretary (Lands), and Mr. Victor Samarawera, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development, distributed the certificates.

Outcome

It was mainly organised for the policymakers and implementers of 14 CIRDAP member countries, so that experiences and problems can be shared, examined and analysed, and appropriate follow-up actions can be devised both at the regional level and country level.



Group photograph of participants of the course

Watershed Development

CIRDAP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Guwahati, organised the training programme on Watershed in Assam, India on 4-13 December 2006.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP on 4 Dec. 2006. In his inaugural address, the Director General, CIRDAP thanked the Government of India and NIRD for the collaborative programme which has given the participating delegation from the CIRDAP member countries an opportunity to share their experiences and learn from the rich experiences of India in the watershed programmes. He appreciated the importance given by



DG, CIRDAP at the inaugural function

Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to watershed development as part of the gigantic scheme to alleviate poverty and to usher in rural prosperity.

Dr. N. Upadhaya, Director, NIRD, NERC, in his speech mentioned that Northeast India has cultural and institutional diversity, keeping the locational advantage and that it was an ideal place to organise the training programme at NERC.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, in his speech mentioned that CIRDAP has its obligation to its member countries and India is contributing for regional cooperation. He urged better understanding, to share experience better and enhance regional cooperation among the member countries.

A total of 15 country representatives from nine member countries of CIRDAP, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, participated in the training programme.

The objectives of the training programme were:

- Overall improvement in the quality of the implementation of the project and capacity building of project officials of the watershed project and to help them as facilitators in their respective countries;

- To impart training on preparation of watershed development plan;
- To impart training on core components of soil and moisture conservation, water harvesting structure, afforestation;
- To impart training in management tools like PERT, CPM methods and also on administrative and accounting procedure;
- To impart training using the Community Information and Planning System (CIPS) in watershed to involve people's participation in planning, implementation and management of watershed; and
- To promote exchange of technical information and regional cooperation for better implementation of watershed programmes in CIRDAP member countries.

Field Visits

Field visits were arranged to expose the participants to watershed based works at Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Barapani, Meghalaya; soil conservation and water harvesting works in watershed areas including drought proofing measure at ICAR complex, real life situations, involving the local communities and NGOs and field level rural development functionaries. Participants also visited Dewlica Farm, Umsring (Centre of Excellence under Horticulture Technology Mission).

The participants observed the presentation about horticulture development activities and hands on farm activities. Participants also visited aromatic and medicinal plants at NEDFi, R&D Centre, Khetri and microwatershed project, Rongjuli, Goalpara.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session of the training programme was held on 13 December 2007. Dr. P.K. Mishra, Deputy Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India and Director, Indian Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), Guwahati, was the Chief Guest in the session. In his speech, the Chief Guest expressed his deep appreciation to NIRD and CIRDAP in successful completion of the programme.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao also spoke on the occasion. The participants from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Philippines also made their remarks about the programme. The session was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Medhabati Devi, Senior Faculty Member of NERC.

The chief Guest distributed certificates among the participants.

Methodologies of Designing & Implementing PA Programmes

The Regional Workshop on Methodologies of Designing & Implementing Poverty Alleviation Programmes was held at NIRD, Hyderabad, India on 18-23 December 2006 and attended by 16 senior level policymakers, Heads of CIRDAP Link Institutions and others from 11 CMCs namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The programme was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP and Mr. V.S. Sampath, DG, NIRD. While inaugurating the workshop, Mr. V.S. Sampath highlighted the significant achievements of the India's growth rate which is around 8-9 per cent per annum and is into the double digit growth projection under its eleventh five-year plan for 2007-2011.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, in his address, mentioned the continuous brain-storming efforts of CIRDAP in the Asia-Pacific region on prime issues like poverty alleviation, MDGs and mobilising institutions to strengthen and make the region grow at much faster rate.

Dr. Paudyal appreciated the fact that the workshop was being attended by very senior officials including secretaries from member governments. He stressed the need to discuss in length all the issues and exchange varied experiences of CMCs in the workshop so that the issues of PA and RD are adequately examined in order to improve the implementation of poverty alleviation strategies and programmes.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, in his observation, remarked that poverty in the Asia-Pacific region is increasing despite the fact that a number of anti-poverty programmes have been implemented by the respective countries. He mentioned that some countries have achieved significantly but the others are lagging behind. He highlighted how a country like Malaysia has rooted out poverty and much ahead in most of the indicators set out in the MDGs.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To discuss and review the major policies and programmes for poverty alleviation in the CIRDAP member countries;
- To study some of the poverty alleviation experiments in the government and non-government sectors for transfer learning; and
- To workout an action plan and to suggest more effective methodologies for design and implementation of PAPs in the member countries.

The workshop modules included: a) Understanding the current approaches to PAPs; b) Learning from field experiences through focused interactions with the communities and programme facilitators during the study visits; and c) Identifying more effective methodologies for design and implementation of PAPs in the light of a and b above.

The workshop was a combination of classroom learning-cum-brainstorming sessions facilitated by senior experts of the country in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation, successful case studies and field exposure besides country presentations.

Field Visits

The delegates were taken to Aurangabad for interactive field-based learning of anti-poverty programmes of Union Government of India in general and Maharashtra State Government in particular. These visits include: Training Centres-Capacity Building of the Poor through Skill and Entrepreneurship Development, Visit to Watershed Development Projects SGSY (Self-Employment Programme), IAY (Housing Scheme), NREGP (Guaranteed Wage Employment Programme) etc. besides world heritage centres Ellora and Ajanta.



Participants during a field visit

In the field-learning activities, the delegates were exposed to different poverty alleviation projects being implemented either by the State Government itself or with support from Union Government. Some of the projects were: National Social Services (NSS); Indira Awaas Yojna Scheme; Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP); Self-Help Groups; Total Sanitation Campaign; and Sanitation Park at Khultabad Block office.

Training-cum-Exposure Visits

The innovative poverty-focused group-based financing of microenterprises through microcredit is gaining international acceptance. Pioneered by Professor Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, microfinance institutions have developed as specialised financial institutions providing credit to the poor. The other institutions in Bangladesh like the Association for Social Advancement (ASA), the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Proshika have grown rapidly. Through several microcredit programmes with a vision to make adequate financial services available to the poor, these institutions have contributed considerably in alleviating poverty in the rural areas. These innovative approaches of microfinance have been replicated by several developing and developed countries of the world in general and Asia-Pacific countries in particular. CIRDAP has been facilitating to study, learn and observe these and other initiatives to a number of stakeholders.

Indian Officials in Bangladesh

In collaboration with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India, one programme was organised on 6-14 January 2006 in Bangladesh. This was participated by the 18 officials from all over India like, Indian Tobacco Company (ITC) Limited; Reserve Bank of India; Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (NGO in Karnataka); Village Welfare Society (NGO in West Bengal); Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI); Canara Bank; Bhorka Charitable Trust; Corporation Bank; Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank; Nav Bharat Jagrati Kendra (NGO in Jharkhand); Government of Uttaranchal, and BIRD, Lucknow.



Group photograph of participants with DG, CIRDAP

The programme activities of the above visit were mainly focused on exposure of the participants to the individual/group activities of microcredit at the grassroots level for learning and exchanging of information. These include briefing and interaction with the groups of the beneficiaries. Such activities are successfully run by the world-renowned microfinance institutions such as Grameen Bank, BRAC, and ASA etc. at the grassroots level in all over the country.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General (DG), CIRDAP on 6 January 2006 at the CIRDAP Headquarters. While welcoming the participants, the DG mentioned that the participants from India are continuously taking keen interest to learn the successful implementation of the microcredit initiatives in the context of Bangladesh experiences. He said that CIRDAP for the last eight years has been organising these types of programmes and a sizeable number of participants from various CIRDAP member countries are attending these regularly. He asserted that through these initiatives, the regional cooperation would also be enhanced.

Field Visits

Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Programme Officer (Training), CIRDAP briefed the participants about the objectives and methodology of the programme. He elaborated in detail the different activities of the exposure visit during the next few days. He informed them about the inclusion of visit of Khagrachari, located in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Area. He urged the participants to get maximum benefit out of the programme, especially interaction during the field visits. The team leader of the delegates, Mr. Prakash Chandra Chaudhri, spoke on this occasion.



Group discussion at grassroots level

The participants were taken to field projects of Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC and Anando in Gazipur, Manikganj, Comilla, Khagrachari etc. They were facilitated by the officials of Grameen Bank to interact with the groups particularly women groups where the participants witnessed how the group meetings are organised and the group members' devotion to be self-sustained and ultimately to come up from the poverty line.

Similarly, the participants visited same types of groups in Manikganj. BRAC facilitated the visit. The participants besides the group formation and their activities, took keen interest to visit some of the houses of the beneficiaries where they observed how the clients utilise their loans in income-generating activities like, small grocery shop, cow rearing, small poultry farm, goat rearing, sewing business, etc. Followed by this, they visited a primary school run by BRAC and the Legal Aid session of a village. BRAC runs the programme through its Human Rights and Legal Services (HRLS) where the awareness of their basic rights as per the Bangladeshi Constitution is taught to the women. These include: access to information about law; demystifying the law through legal literacy classes; raising awareness about legal rights; and empowering the poor, especially women, both legally and socially by encouraging them to take legal action.

Prior to visit of Comilla, A special meeting was arranged with Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the Managing Director, Grameen Bank. An informal discussion took place where Prof. Yunus elaborated in detail the evolution of the Bank. The delegates were very much delighted to meet with a world renowned personality and raised their queries related to the Bank's credit policies in general and its network in particular. The participants were also briefed by the officials of ASA at its HQs, Mr. Enamul Haq, Executive Vice President, briefed the delegates about the activities of ASA. The briefing was followed by the discussion session. The delegates appreciated the achievements of ASA, especially its recovery rate of 100 per cent.

In Comilla, the participants in two groups visited the groups of ASA in nearby villages and got hands-on experience about microfinance activities. They had the opportunity to attend a discussion session on 'Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)' arranged by the officials of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla. This was facilitated by Mr. Mohammed Mir Kashem, Director, BARD followed by a lecture-cum-learning session on 'Participatory Project Cycle Management (PPCM)' facilitated by Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharya, Faculty Member and Dr. Mihir Kumar Roy, Director, BARD. The participants took keen interest to learn the experiences of CVDP and appreciated the idea of decentralised planning which was initiated some decades ago. The session ended with discussions and questions/answers which were replied by the facilitators.

Apart from these visits, participants were also taken to Khagrachari, a Hill District where they visited Anando (NGO) projects at Panchari. The delegates visited 'Homestead Agriculture and Homestead gardening' promoted by Anando at Panchari Upazila. Mr. Francis Halder of Anando briefed the delegates about the importance of 'Homestead Agriculture and Homestead Gardening' in the context of Bangladesh. He arranged an interaction with some of the beneficiaries of Anando, where the tribal beneficiaries are utilising the 'Homestead Boundary Lines' for income-generating activities, such as, forestry, fruits, timber, etc.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session of the programme was held on 13 January with Dr. Durga P. Paydyaal in the chair. Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh and Mr. Prakash Chandra Chaudhri also spoke on the occasion and presented the brief reports of the proceedings of the exposure visit. Some of the members of the delegates spoke and expressed their happiness about the conduct of the visit programme by CIRDAP.

The Director General distributed the certificates to the participants.

Nepalese Officials in Bangladesh

The second training-cum-exposure visit programme on 'Microfinance, Microenterprises and Poverty Alleviation Projects' for senior officials from the His Majesty's Government of Nepal, was held in Bangladesh on 18-23 March 2006. A total of 20 participants from various departments and government poverty alleviation projects from Nepal attended the programme. The exposure visits

focused mainly on the field-level activities of the well-known microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Bangladesh, namely, Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA etc. besides Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP at hotel Rafflesia in Dhaka. In his welcome remarks, Director General mentioned that the microfinance sector in Bangladesh has become a role model for other countries for its innovative ideas in group-based loaning. He said that though the geographical condition of Nepal is not similar to that of Bangladesh as the problems of a mountainous country are different, but a lot of lessons can be learnt from Bangladesh for possible replication in rural development and poverty alleviation.

Field Visits

The field visits pertaining to microfinance institutions were facilitated by the project field staffs of Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC and BSCIC at different villages of Gazipur, Uzirpur, Potia of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts. The participants interacted with various microfinance groups including women's groups, exchanged notes on microcredit operations and gathered first hand experience on microcredit operations. These include procedure of group loaning, loan repayment behaviour, income-generating activities like, small grocery shop, cow milking, fattening and cow rearing, chicken and duck rearing, vegetable cultivation, fish culture, small poultry firm, goat rearing, sewing business, etc. The participants visited some of the shops being run successfully by the entrepreneurs after getting loans from the banks. They also interacted with the members of Landless Women's Association who after availing themselves of the loans were able to generate their resources and have their own lands.



Participants visiting a BRAC school

The participants were also taken to the small industrial units financed by the small and medium loans provided to the individual members by BSCIC. The activities generating through these loans were: sewing machine, cane wood produce, rickshaw workshop, grocery shop, soap making, pottery shop, packing and packaging of different kinds of masala (spices), puffed rice factory etc.

The participants during the field work raised a number of questions, queries directly to the beneficiaries to verify data of the loans and assess the impact of the poverty alleviation efforts of the MFIs on the socio-economic conditions of the poor.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was held on 24 March at CIRDAP Headquarters with H.E. Mr. Bhagirath Basnet, the Ambassador of His Majesty's Government of Nepal in Bangladesh in the chair. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP and Mr. B.N. Sharma, Team Leader of the group, also spoke on the occasion.



Nepalese Ambassador in Bangladesh speaking at the valedictory session

The Ambassador expressed his appreciation to CIRDAP to undertake this training programme for the delegates of Nepal. He mentioned that microfinance is a very important tool for poverty alleviation. He lauded the efforts of CIRDAP that are contributing a lot to the CMCs. He thanked DG, CIRDAP and other staff of CIRDAP for organising this programme.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal expressed his profound happiness on the presence of H.E the Ambassador of Nepal. He felt happy for the successful conclusion of the programme and hoped that the training would be useful for the participating delegates in their back home situations.

Mr. B.N. Sharma said that NGOs in Bangladesh have better set-up as compared to Government. 'We are highly encouraged from the learning environment of this exposure visit', he acclaimed. He thanked DG, CIRDAP, for his support and cooperation. He thanked Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao and his team to make the visit successful and fruitful. He admired the people of Bangladesh and CIRDAP supportive staff for the hospitality extended to them.

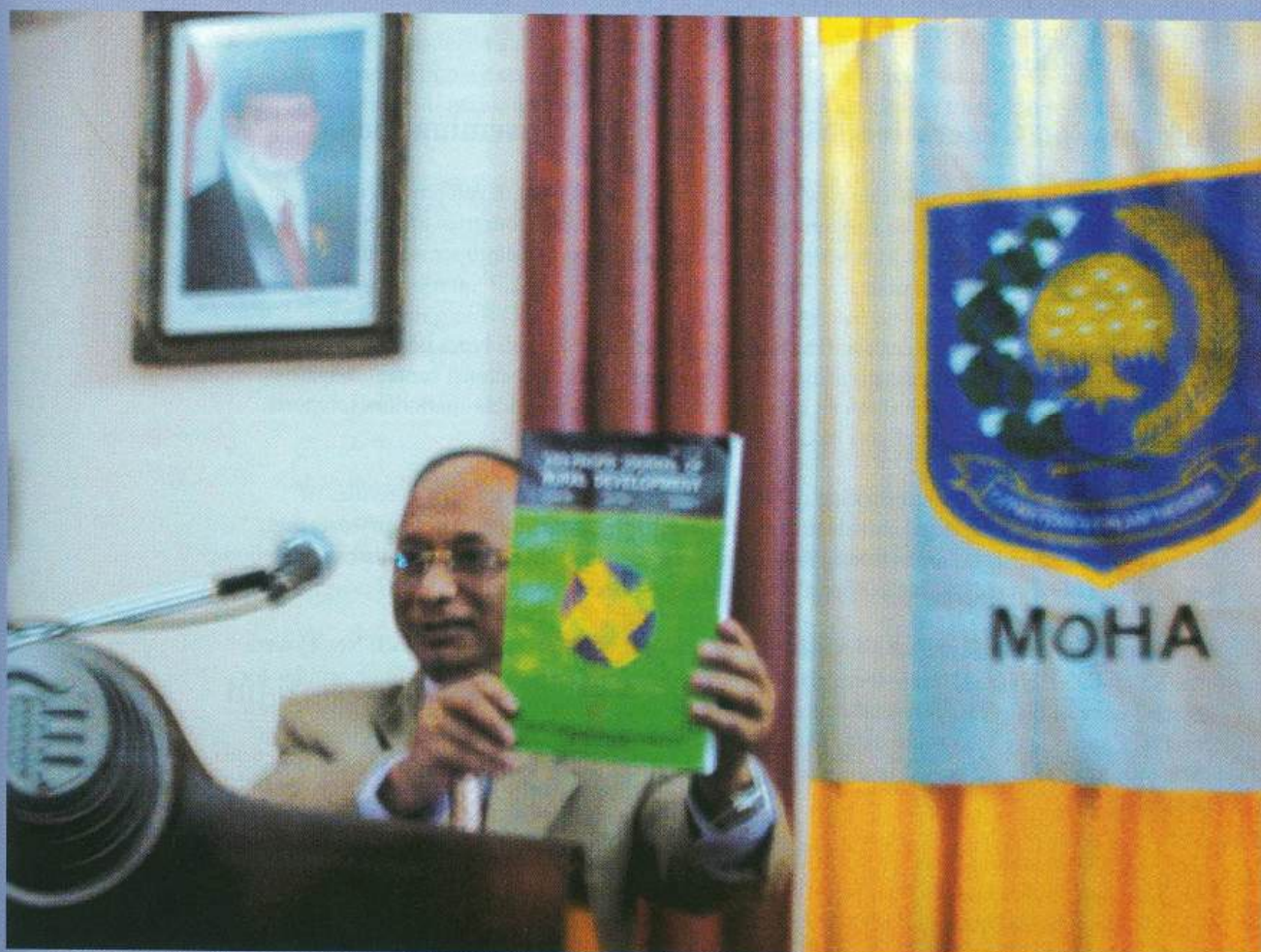
The Ambassador distributed the certificates to the participants.

Information and Communication

- Information Generation, Management and Dissemination
- Library Services
- Information Technology Services
- Audio-Visual Support Services
- Public Relations

Focused Areas

- Disseminating information on research, pilot projects and training activities
- Release of CIRDAP E-bulletin
- Worldwide acclamation of APJORD
- Agreements with CABL, UK and EBSCO, USA
- New members of APJORD Editorial Board and Advisory Board
- Online newspaper clipping service
- Library internship programme
- Collection of free electronic periodicals
- Strengthening IT work
- Redesigning CIRDAP website
- A new video documentary on CIRDAP
- A good advocacy of the Centre with media connections



Launching of special issue of Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development on ICARRD at TC-22, Bandung, Indonesia

Information and Communication Division

During the year 2006, activities of Information and Communication Division were integrated, consolidated and strengthened in a participatory manner. Several notable breakthroughs and initiatives were also achieved.

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) gained increased stature internationally. With popular international academic websites such as CAB International, Oxford, UK and EBSCO Publishing, USA uploading full text on their websites, the number of good quality articles received from Asia and Africa has increased more than tenfold.

The release of CIRDAP E-bulletin was another initiative appreciated by several CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). A new CIRDAP video documentary was also produced.

Introducing on-line newspaper clipping service covering 14 CMCs was appreciated at the 27th Anniversary Celebrations of CIRDAP. The library internship programme also now has a strong demand from the young graduates from the field of Information and Library Science.

The activities of the division can be categorised under the following:

- a. Information Generation, Management and Dissemination
- b. Library Services
- c. Information Technology Services
- d. Audio-Visual Support Services
- e. Public Relations

Information Generation, Management and Dissemination

As CIRDAP is supposed to generate new information relating to rural development (RD) in an integrated manner, which will be very much required by its member countries to strengthen their efforts in alleviating poverty, ICD is set to manage the information in a proper way and disseminate them to its target users.

The Information and Communication Division collates and manages all types of data and information generated within the divisions of the Centre, its link institutions, contact ministries and other related institutions through its regular and irregular publications- periodicals, reports, books, booklets, bulletins, brochures etc., library and ICT resources.

ICD regularly disseminates information on research, pilot projects and training activities of CIRDAP by print, audio visual and electronic media. Also regional and cross-country data and success stories are disseminated through regular and occasional publications and other information services like library and on-line services.

During the period, three issue of APJORD (that is Vol. XV, No. 1 & 2 and Vol. XVI, No. 1) were published. Even though towards the end of the 2005, there was a crisis to find enough articles for the first issue of that year, the situation has completely changed in 2006 with over 29 articles in reserve. Furthermore after more than seven years, CIRDAP professionals have taken interest in their own journal. In the recent issues of APJORD, four articles by the professionals have been published.

Prof. Md. Farashuddin of East West University has joined APJORD Editorial Board while Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, India and Dr. Norman Uphoff, Cornell International Institute for Food Agriculture and Development, USA have joined APJORD Editorial Advisory Board.

Agreements were signed with CAB International, Oxford, UK, and EBSCO, USA to upload APJORD full text on their websites. These provided CIRDAP with the opportunities for global exposure and dissemination of information worldwide.

In 2006 four issues of the quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) were published. However, there were few delays in bringing out some issues because of variety of reasons, which were rectified by the end of the year.

Annual Report 2005 also was published during the concerned period. Two E-bulletins were released. In addition to these periodicals, ICD also carried out other editing and printing work which included working papers for TC meeting, divisional publications such as RDR '05, Policy Dialogue book, Publication Catalogue, and CIRDAP Brochure.

ICD has taken initiative to ensure all CIRDAP publications available at its branch office in Indonesia. Now SOCSEA office is stocked with a complete set of available CIRDAP books, booklets, bulletins, brochures etc. In order to expand dissemination of information, publication exchange programme with various reputed academic organisations was strengthened.

Mailing list updating, distribution process and sale of publications were also streamlined.

Library Services

In 2006 activities of the CIRDAP Aziz-ul-Haq Memorial Library were strengthened with the addition of on-line resources. The following activities were carried out under the library services:

- ICD has introduced a new service in the way of upgrading its website. CIRDAP on-line newspaper clipping service (CONCS) is the database of articles on rural development issues from all major newspapers of CMCs. Relevant articles on rural development and poverty alleviation have been collected and posted on the website during the year.
- Online resources such as free electronic periodicals on development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) of CMCs etc. have been collected.
- A library Internship Programme has been conducted by the Librarian for the young graduates from the field of Information and Library Science, who want to gain experience in librarianship or information science in an international environment. Two students Ms. Aleja Ferdous and Ms. Papia Sultana from Information Science and Library Management Department of Dhaka University joined in this internship programme (now they are serving two top international organisations in Bangladesh).
- Carried out regular library activities (Processing: classification, accession, database entry, shelving for books/periodicals/news clippings etc.).
- Provided regular library services (Current awareness services, new arrivals of books and periodicals with abstract), Selective dissemination of information service, Reference service, Bibliographical service (subject and need based), Photocopy services etc.

Information Technology Services

In the recent past, rapid innovations in telecommunications, semiconductors, microprocessors, fibre-optics and microelectronics revolutionised the concept of development in the world. With the help of IT, development can now be accelerated dramatically. During the year, CIRDAP has also tried to improve its IT base at Headquarters in order to render a better service to its member countries.

Currently CIRDAP is running its IT work by using 30 computers, 1 laptop, 16 dot matrix printers, 9 laser printers and 2 scanners. One Internet Gateway Server is running to serve the Internet Service. CIRDAP has 96-kbps bandwidth, which might have to be strengthened.

The Local Area Network (LAN) system is functioning through structured cabling with 25 nodes. Almost all the users now have access to the core facilities for example Internet browsing, e-mail, web mail, e-learning, and e-journal. The users can have file-sharing facility through network. The users of each department share resources such as laser or dot printers, and a heavy duty printer is also being shared by the all users.

Regular troubleshooting work and supply of computer peripherals have also been maintained during the whole year.

Website

CIRDAP website has been reorganised and several new features, for example CMC Census and Statistics and Central Bank database accesses have been introduced. Website addresses of all CLIs and CMCs have also been posted.

The other features of the website have been given below:

- CIRDAP is operating its web-based activities under two domains namely www.cirdap.org.sg and www.cirdap.org.
- About 29 e-mail accounts have been installed.
- CIRDAP is running its on-line setup in collaboration with Proshikanet, Global Online and Grameen Cybernet.
- CIRDAP is running its e-commerce site in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Audio - Visual Support Services

A new video documentary on CIRDAP was produced. The documentary was designed to catch up on the progress of the Centre over time. It also brought forth the approaches CIRDAP is practising for the betterment of the rural people in the member countries.



Filming for the new CIRDAP video

A regular photographic coverage of the CIRDAP events was done. ICD also maintained its audio-visual presentations during the whole year. The preservation and record keeping has further been strengthened.

Public Relations

ICD has strengthened its public relations programmes in the year 2006 and ensured a good advocacy of the Centre.

All its important functions, policy body meetings, and policy dialogue seminar got a good media coverage. Media personnel that are reporters, editors, radio/TV programme producers have shown their interest in CIRDAP activities. Important English papers like The Daily Star, The Bangladesh Observer, The News Today, The Bangladesh Today have given a good coverage of CIRDAP events while different government and private TV channels like BTV, NTV, ATN Bangla, Channel i, STV, Channel I have telecast the programmes.

Two TV channels BTV and NTV had their special programmes on CIRDAP and Director General was interviewed in those programmes.

Invitation for Articles

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) is an interdisciplinary journal, published by CIRDAP, and is devoted to issues and discussions on rural development primarily in the Asia-Pacific region. APJORD focuses on poverty issues and rural transformation, keeping in view the programme priorities of the Centre, e.g. agrarian development, institutional/ infrastructural development, resource development including human resources, and employment.

Articles are invited for publication in APJORD. All articles are subject to peer review. Articles between 4000 - 5000 word are preferred. They may be submitted on CDs or floppy diskettes (along with a hard copy) and/or can be sent by e-mail: infocom@cirdap.org.

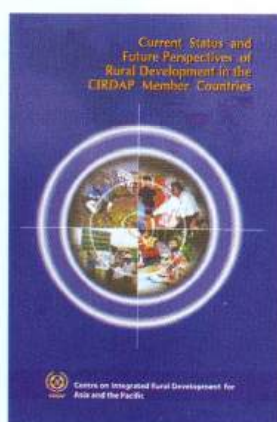
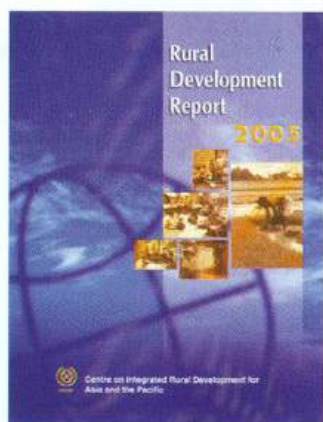
Typescripts should be submitted in duplicate, on A4 size paper, typewritten on one side in double space, with margins of at least 2.54 cm. Statistical tables, illustrations and charts should be submitted on separate sheets and their positions indicated in the text.

APJORD follows the Chicago Manual of Style for preparing articles. A note to the contributors is available at the backpages of any issue of the Journal or can be found at our website at www.cirdap.org.sg.

For further details, please contact the Editor.

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 XVI, No. 2. Dec. 2006.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVI, No. 1. July 2006.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 2. Dec. 2005.
- 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.



Administration and Finance

- Policy Bodies of CIRDAP
- Organisational Structure of CIRDAP Headquarters and its Regional Centre
- Activities performed during 2006
- Audit of the Accounts



Opening ceremony of the renovated 'Chameli House'

Administration

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: organising CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC), Executive Committee (EC), and Governing Council (GC) meetings, implementation of the decisions of the policy body meetings pertaining to the administrative and financial matters, recruitment, developing, managing and utilising personnel, protocol duties, procurement, maintenance of office premises and properties, campus and arrangement of residential accommodation for professional staff-members, management of auditorium, conference rooms and cafeteria, liaison with ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, LGRD&C, Housing and Public Works and concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities, construction and renovation work of CIRDAP complex etc. The Division recommends and administers financial policies/procedure, manage financial affairs including arranging interim and final audit work of the Centre and of the projects of Programme Divisions and preparation of programme works of budget (PWB) etc.

Policy Bodies of CIRDAP

CIRDAP has three policy bodies, each responsible to perform distinct roles and functions to operate the Centre's activities. These include (i) the GC, which is the highest policy and decision making body of CIRDAP, and represented by the ministers of the designated Contact Ministries of all the member countries. It is the only regional forum of the ministers in relating to rural development in the Asia-Pacific region; (ii) the 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 to provide guidance to the Centre on implementation of the policies and decisions adopted by the GC. It is represented by the Secretaries/Permanent Secretaries/Secretaries General of the Contact Ministries; and (iii) the TC, which provides technical advice on professional matters concerning implementation of the Centre's activities, and the interrelationship and coordination of the activities and programmes carried out by the Centre or under its auspices. It is represented by the heads of the designated Link Institutions in the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), representatives from non-member states that 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 shall be the legal representative of the Centre. He shall direct the work of the Centre in accordance with the policy and decisions adopted by the Governing Council under the guidance of the Executive Committee.

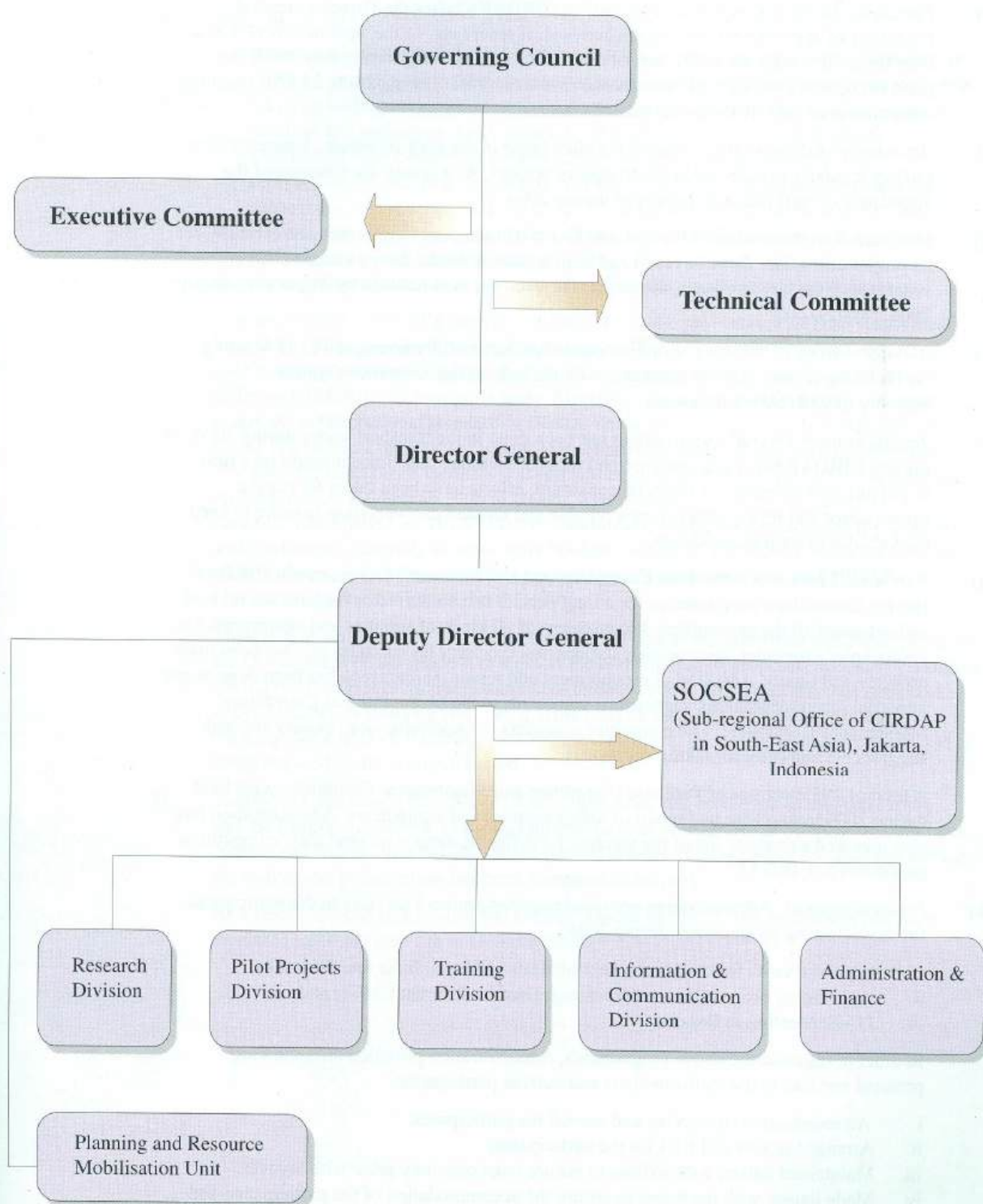
As envisaged in the Agreement of its establishment, the Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) established in 1997 provides a basis and plays a catalytic role for enhancing effective and efficient services to generate resources and knowledge of rural development and poverty alleviation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

Activities Performed during 2006

- a) *Appointment:* The vacant posts in the professional category have been filled up during 2006 by recruiting Special Officer in the Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit (PRMU) to increase the professional strength of the Centre.

Recruitment in the vacant posts of Finance Officer and Personnel Assistant in the Administration and Finance Division, Computer Programmer and Secretary in the

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Information and Communication Division, and Secretary in the Office of the Director General has been done during 2006. Besides, one Receptionist-cum-Secretary has been appointed temporarily.

The recruitment in the above positions has been made as per recommendation of the Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC).

- b) *Personnel Advisory Committee:* The PAC of CIRDAP advises the Director General regarding all appointment, promotion, renewal of tenure etc. of the staff-members. For a long time, there were no visible activities of PAC. After joining during July 2004, the present Director General took initiative to revive the PAC. During 2006, 23 PAC meetings were convened for HR/Personnel related matters.
- c) *Attendance:* Administration monitor the attendance of the staff-members. Administrative Officer regularly peruses the staff attendance register. As a result, the situation of the attendance of staff has been improved during 2006.
- d) *Overtime:* Overtime work of the G-1 and G-2 staff-members were monitored carefully for its proper utilisation. Positive result has been achieved for the above initiative. Overtime statement of the last five years shows that the overtime was reduced by 31 per cent during 2006.
- e) *Arrangement of TC Meeting:* Administration has successfully arranged TC-22 Meeting on 12-14 September 2006 in Bandung, with the help of the respective Contact Ministry of CIRDAP in Indonesia.
- f) *Transportation:* Overall improvement has been done in the transport sector during 2006. At present CIRDAP has seven vehicles, and most of them are old. Since it might take time to procure new vehicles for financial constraint, efforts have been taken for regular maintenance and repair works from a reliable and reputed car workshop in order to keep the vehicles in running condition.
- g) *Purchase:* There was a Purchase Committee and a Maintenance Committee in CIRDAP. But the committees were inactive for a long period. Present Director General has revived and activated all the committees. Procurement of all kinds of supplies and equipments viz., photocopier, computer, laser printer, stationeries, crockery for cafeteria etc. has been made properly and timely. Any kind of procurement and repair/maintenance has been done as per impartial recommendations/suggestions/comments made by the Purchas Committee/ Maintenance Committee. The committee considers the necessity, cost, quality etc. and suggests the authority for taking decision.

A total of 105 meetings of Purchase Committee and Maintenance Committee were held during 2006 to purchase and repair of office supplies and equipments. Administration has also prepared a separate list of the vendors for different items who send their competitive quotations to CIRDAP.

- h) *Protocol support:* Administration provided required protocol services to the participants for the following programmes during 2006:
 - i. Exposure visits for the government officials of Nepal, India and Sri Lanka;
 - ii. Ten training programmes/seminars organised in different CMCs; and
 - iii. TC-22 Meeting in Bandung.

In order to organise the above programmes, Administration provided the following protocol services to the staff-members and outside participants:

- i. Attended airport to receive and see-off the participants;
- ii. Arranged tickets and PTA for the participants;
- iii. Maintained liaison with airlines to ensure most economy price with layover;
- iv. Made liaison with the hotels to ensure the accommodation of the participants; and
- v. Contacted different embassies located in different CMCs to facilitate the participants to get their visas.

- i) *Meetings with the staff-members:* In order to improve the discipline and efficiency of the staff, Administrative Officer arranged meetings separately with the finance officials, secretaries, drivers, messengers and cooks with a number of informative suggestions. Such type of meetings shall be continued in future as and when necessary. As a part of the disciplinary action, showcause notices were served to few staff-members for their fault, misconduct, and/or undue absence from office.
- j) *Renovation work:*
 - i. Renovation work of old heritage Chameli House main building (1st floor) which was declared unusable by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) long nine years back, was taken up with the concerned authorities of the government by the Administration. As a result of this endeavour, GoB ultimately started the work at a cost of about US\$142,857 and completed it during 2006. Besides, renovation work in the new two-storey building, construction of the car parking area with a toilet and the carpeting of entire inner roads of CIRDAP complex have also been done in 2006.
 - ii. Development has been made in the auditorium including changing of the curtains, painting of the wall, repairing and polishing of the furniture, equipments etc.
 - iii. Arrangement was made to paint the entire boundary wall including maingate.
- k) *Construction of CIRDAP Conference Centre:* Over the past years, CIRDAP's activities have been increased considerably. Accordingly, CIRDAP regularly conducts seminars/conferences/workshops/exposure visits/training programmes etc. in which delegates from different CIRDAP countries participate. Moreover, there is no medium size conference centre of an international standard in Dhaka. The available venues such as Bangladesh-China Friendship Complex or Osmani Memorial Halls are made for the large conferences. The need for conference facilities was felt while organising the CIRDAP GC meeting and regional policy dialogue in 2005 in Dhaka, where ministers and secretaries of 14 countries participated in. The CIRDAP Auditorium, which has the facilities for seminars and workshops, generally remains fully booked, indicating that there is indeed a need for such facilities. In fact the Centre has enough space for construction of a CIRDAP Conference Centre having all these facilities.

Therefore, Administration took initiative with the concerned ministries and departments of the Government of Bangladesh to support the construction of proposed Six-Storey Building having the facilities of an international conference centre. The Department of Architect under Ministry of Housing and Public Works has already prepared the preliminary drawings for CIRDAP International Conference Centre. The matter is under process and is being pursued by the Administration.

- l) *Auditorium and Conference Room:* Renovation work has been done in the Auditorium and the Conference Room to give a regional flavour. A separate car parking area has been constructed with a toilet facility for the outside drivers. Monitoring of the facilities during the auditorium programmes has been maintained carefully.

As a result of these endeavours, the average annual income of the auditorium has been increased to 66 per cent (up to October 2006).



CIRDAP bids farewell to Dr. M. A. Monim, Special Officer, PRMU



Family members celebrating CIRDAP Staf Day on 27 January 2006 at the ANSAR Academy in Shafipur, Gazipur

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 contributions for 2004-2005 biennium was US\$1,162,016 and financial support for new and ongoing projects amounted to US\$861,242. CIRDAP provide US\$41,500 out of its Special Reserve Fund for programme activities.

Audit of the Accounts

The final accounts of the centre for 2004-2005 biennium were audited by Mr. Bambang Widaryanto, Senior Auditor, Office of the Directorate for Audit Foreign Loans and Grants, Financial and Development Supervisory Board, Republic of Indonesia from 7 June to 16 June 2006. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Reports and the financial statement for the 2004-2005 biennium have been furnished below:

Report on the Audited Final Accounts of the Centre for the Thirteenth Biennium (2004-2005)

To: Executive Committee, CIRDAP

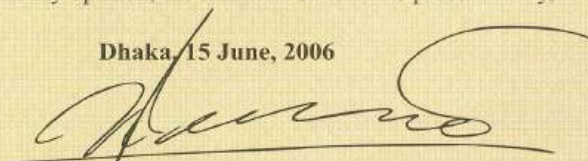
AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the financial statements of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) as of 31 December 2005 and related statements for the biennium then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of CIRDAP. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards prescribed by CIRDAP in Financial Regulation and in conformity with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects.

Dhaka, 15 June, 2006



BAMBANG WIDARYANTO

Senior Auditor

Directorate for Audit of Foreign Loans and Grants


Financial and Development Supervisory Board

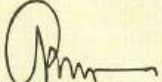
Republic of Indonesia

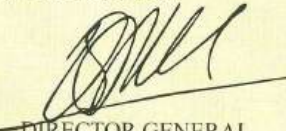
CIRDAP
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)
Final Accounts as on December 31, 2005

Assets	2002-2003 Biennium in US\$	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$
Cash in Hand	8,298.82	8,861.09
Cash in Banks	582,289.25	731,353.56
Investment in Banks	-	-
Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks	590,588.07	740,214.65
CMC Contribution Receivables	104,334.43	116,396.69
Advance to Staff	12,206.72	34,237.14
Prepayments and Deposits	1,138.71	5,811.07
Other Accounts Receivables	26,924.23	3,038.98
Subtotal of Receivables	144,604.09	159,483.88
Fixed Assets	369,860.10	389,103.79
Subtotal of Fixed Assets	369,860.10	389,103.79
Total Assets	1,105,052.26	1,288,802.32
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accrued Salary and allowances	6,483.08	
Other Accounts Payable	5,377.52	6,136.94
Clearing and Suspense Account	-	-
Sub Total of Total Liabilities	11,860.60	6,136.94
Net Assets		
General Fund (GF)	296,282.36	250,369.28
Fixed Assets	369,860.10	389,103.79
Subtotal of General Fund	666,142.46	639,473.07
Trust Fund (TF)	212,397.41	312,293.06
Working Capital Fund (WCF)	10,317.00	130,317.00
Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	151,688.79	184,253.06
Contribution received in advance (Bangladesh) -		
Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	52,646.00	16,329.19
Subtotal of Other Funds	427,049.20	643,192.31
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,105,052.26	1,288,802.32

The annexed schedules, statements and working notes form an integral part of these statements

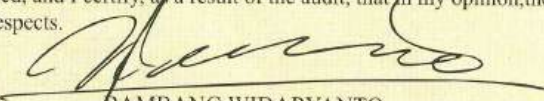

FINANCE OFFICER
Dhaka, March 31, 2006


ADMIN OFFICER
Dhaka, March 31, 2006


DIRECTOR GENERAL
Dhaka, March 31, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR


I have examined the Financial Statements of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) for the biennium 2004-2005 ended December 31, 2005. I have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required, and I certify, as a result of the audit, that in my opinion, the Financial Statements present fairly, in all material respects.

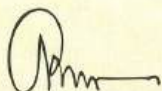

BAMBANG WIDARYANTO
Senior Auditor
Head of Sub Directorate for Audit Foreign Loans and Grants
Financial and Development Supervisory Board of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

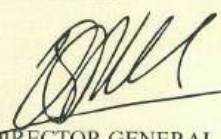
CIRDAP
General Fund (GF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Biennium 2004-2005 ended December 31, 2005

<u>Income</u>	<u>2002-2003 Biennium in US\$</u>	<u>2004-2005 Biennium in US\$</u>
Opening Balance of Fund	569,199.81	666,142.46
Less : Assets retained per contra as on 31 December 1999 and 2001	(368,910.69)	(369,860.10)
	200,289.12	296,282.36
Less : Advance from WCF	(120,000.00)	(120,000.00)
Advance from DRF	(150,000.00)	(150,000.00)
	(69,710.88)	26,282.36
Temporary Loan from WCF	120,000.00	120,000.00
Less : Refund during 2004		(120,000.00)
Temporary Loan from DRF	150,000.00	150,000.00
Less : Refund during 2004		(50,000.00)
	270,000.00	100,000.00
Waiver of CMC Cont. Receivable (For Afghanistan from 1996-2000)		(55,170.00)
CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	926,183.79	1,162,016.23
Miscellaneous Income	69,692.31	53,340.72
Total Income	1,196,165.22	1,286,469.31
Expenditure		
Professional Staff Salary	197,249.20	233,300.48
General Staff Salary	252,117.23	293,888.79
General Staff Overtime	5,942.21	5,147.00
	455,308.64	532,336.27
Common Staff Cost	53,112.78	104,705.11
Official Travels	168,583.19	116,752.21
External Audit	4,000.00	5,061.45
General Operating Expenses	203,091.15	235,654.93
Supplies and Materials	15,787.10	22,346.37
Acquisition of Assets-		19,243.69
Total Expenses	899,882.86	1,036,100.03
Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	296,282.36	250,369.28

The annexed schedules, statements and working notes form an integral part of these statements


 FINANCE OFFICER
 Dhaka, March 31, 2006



 ADMIN. OFFICER
 Dhaka, March 31, 2006

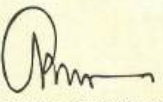

 DIRECTOR GENERAL
 Dhaka, March 31, 2006

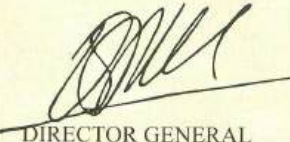
CIRDAP
Trust Fund (TF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Biennium 2004-2005 ended December 31, 2005

Income	2002-2003 Biennium in US\$	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$
Opening Balance of Fund	180,250.61	212,397.41
Allocation From Special Reserve Fund		
During the Year 2004	-	41,500.00
During the Year 2005	8,000.00	
	8,000.00	41,500.00
Adjustment of Payables	-	-
UN Agency Contribution	10,264.00	55,250.00
Country Contributions (JAPAN)	-	-
Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	200,367.94	593,594.82
	210,631.94	648,844.82
Total Income	398,882.55	902,742.23
Expenditure		
Research Projects	32,850.95	19,120.74
Pilot Projects	5,415.96	282,885.93
Training Projects	135,079.91	261,102.67
Doc. & Information Projects	13,138.32	27,339.83
Total Expenses	186,485.14	590,449.17
Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	212,397.41	312,293.06

The annexed schedules, statements and working notes form an integral part of these statements


FINANCE OFFICER
Dhaka, March 31, 2006

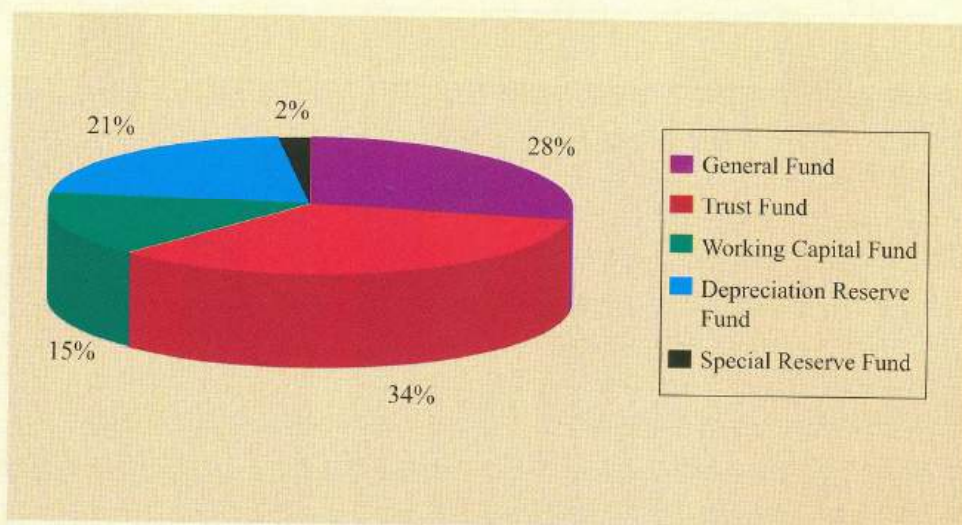

ADMIN. OFFICER
Dhaka, March 31, 2006


DIRECTOR GENERAL
Dhaka, March 31, 2006

CIRDAP Fund Status as at 31st December 2005

<u>Sl.</u>	<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Amount in US\$</u>
1.	General Fund	250,369
2.	Trust Fund	312,293
3.	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4.	Depreciation Reserve Fund	184,253
5.	Special Reserve Fund	16,329
	Total	893,562

Fund Status as at 31st December 2005

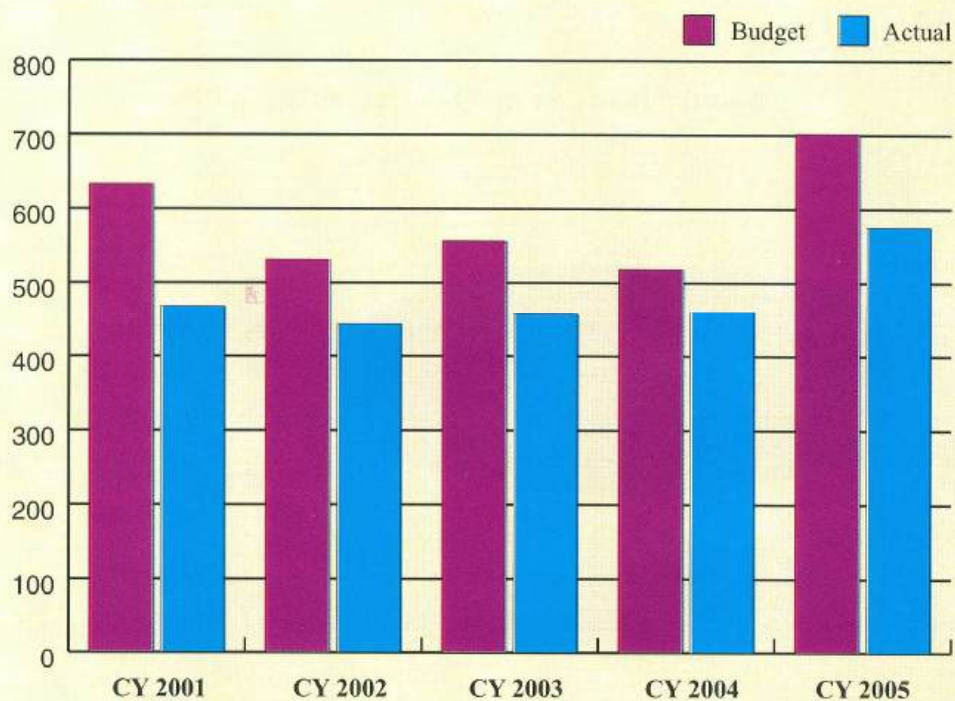


CIRDAP General Fund

Amount in US\$

	<i>CY 2001</i>	<i>CY 2002</i>	<i>CY 2003</i>	<i>CY 2004</i>	<i>CY 2005</i>
Budget	633,090	531,202	556,320	518,667	702,024
Actual	467,917	442,978	456,903	460,252	575,848

Budget vs Actual Expenses



Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP

In accordance with a decision taken at the 10th CIRDAP Governing Council Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 1995, the Sub-regional office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) was established in Indonesia on 21 February 1997. SOCSEA is assisting CIRDAP in expanding its membership and resources, and conducting training, research and pilot projects relevant to the Southeast Asian region.

Since its inception in 1997, SOCSEA, in collaboration with various agencies/organisations, has carried out 40 programmes/activities consisting of 11 training programmes, 3 workshops, 14 seminars, 5 research and 7 interregional information exchanges.

During the year 2006, SOCSEA organised one regional programme and three in-country programmes:

Regional Programme

Enhancing Women's Role in SMEs Development

The Training was organised by CIRDAP/ SOCSEA in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and NAM CSSTC as the third activity undertaken as a follow up of the MOU between CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC. The training workshop was held on 18 - 24 September 2006 in Bali, Indonesia. Eighteen women participants from the CMCs attended the training. (For details, please see Page 33.)



Group photograph of participants

In-Country Training Programmes

Community Empowerment in Prevention of the Use of Hazardous Preservative for Food Product

The Training Workshop was held on 11 March 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA and the Provincial Government of Yogyakarta Special Region. SOCSEA and the Regional Government of Yogyakarta were jointly monitoring the follow up action of the workshop. A total of 63 food producers from Yogyakarta participated in the workshop.



The inaugural session of a training programme

Objectives

- Provide the community with appropriate knowledge to enable them produce good quality food without using hazardous preservative; and
- Familiarisation of the permitted as well as the prohibited ingredient as food preservative to community members, although the government regulations on the matter have been enacted earlier.

Recommendations

- The production and distribution of hazardous preservative for food should be properly managed, monitored and controlled;
- Actions should be taken to further prevent the use of hazardous food preservative for food were agreed upon during the workshop; and
- The Ministerial Regulation issued by Minister of Health is functioning as guideline for food producers in implementing Good Manufacturing Practices.

Food Diversification for New Business Opportunities

SOCSEA and Regent of Boyolali organised the Training on the Production of Candied Papaya Stalk as Food Diversification for New Business Opportunities. The training was held on 29-30 May 2006 in Boyolali, Central Java, Indonesia. The training was inaugurated by Mr. Sri Moelyanto, Regent of Boyolali and attended by 64 participants representing various community groups in Boyolali. The Centre for Integrated Women Empowerment 'Ngudi Bakti Utami' (NBU) supported the implementation of the training by providing by providing experts and the necessary equipment.

Objectives

- To enhance the economic empowerment of poor family;
- Enhancing women skill through the empowerment of UPPKS (Integrated Women Empowerment Centre) ;
- Reducing the waste in the form of unproductive papaya stalk
- Reduce the poverty level;
- Develop the candied papaya stalk into valuable food item; and
- Creating new employment opportunity for community members.

Outcome

Contribute valuable ideas to the members of Integrated Women Empowerment Centre (IWES) in Boyolali Regency regarding the utilisation of papaya stalk to produce good food/snack and at the same time to preserve environment:

- The community members particularly women group will be able in mastering the knowhow and skill to produce candied from papaya stalk as alternative food product diversification;
- Enhance the community income by utilising papaya stalk to produce candied papaya stalk; and
- Absorb the manpower from food producing sector to be employed in formal industrial venture.

Utilisations of Soybean Epidermis

SOCSEA in collaboration with Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency and the Centre on Integrated Women Empowerment 'Ngudi Bakti Utami' (NBU) organised the Training on the Utilisations of Soybean Epidermis to Produce Fibre Rich Food on 23-24 August 2006 in Purbalingga, Central Java, Indonesia. The training attended by 55 women participants mostly representing different women association in Purbalingga Regency. Mr. Triyono Budi Susongko, Regent of Purbalingga, inaugurated the training.

Objectives

- To empower and to develop the economy of poor
- To enhance the skill of women
- To help preserve the environment by reducing the un-necessary waste of soybean epidermis.

Outcome

- Provide ideas to the members of the Women Welfare Association on (PKK) and the members of the Integrated Women Empowerment Centre (UPKKS) regarding the utilisation of the soybean epidermis to produce fibre rich food;
- Enhancing the community's income by the utilisation of soybean epidermis; and
- Absorb manpower from food industry to be employed in formal mini enterprise.



A CIRDAP programme in Indonesia

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 a large number of 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.



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

[M.Sc. in Development Communication, University of Philippines]
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 was also 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 has joined CIRDAP in 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 was also a pastoral worker in community development of farmers, fisher folks, women and youth prior to her tenure in DAR. She was an Instructor in Sociology and Economics in Mount Carmel College. Ms. Tuzon has joined CIRDAP in July 2004.



Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Pakistan

[M.A. in Economics, University of Sindh]
Programme Officer (Training Division)

Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh is an academician and trainer having 14 years of working experience at the Akhter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration as a faculty member. With a background in Development Economics, he has organised a number of training courses, seminars and 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 'People's 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.



Mr. Majibar Rahman, Bangladesh

[Master's in Rural Social Development, University of Reading, U.K.;
M.Com. in Management, Dhaka University;
Ph.D. Fellow, Preston University, USA]
Special Officer (PRMU)

A government servant for more than 15 years, he has been serving in senior positions as a counterpart to expatriate/international advisors in several donor assisted projects devoted to rural development, poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement of the poor in Bangladesh. Before joining CIRDAP, he worked in the capacity of Project Director, in Char Livelihood Programme (CLP) implemented by RDCD with financial and technical support from DFID. His areas of specialisation include: Local governance, microfinance, promotion of income-generating activities, microenterprise development, flood proofing, participatory rural development and poverty alleviation, participatory planning, gender development, project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Mr. Rahman got National Award for his outstanding performance and contribution in the field of Cooperatives and Rural Development in 1986. He received training in UK, Greece, India and Japan in the fields of rural and social development, cooperatives, microfinance, human security, participatory rural development and local government, rural regional development planning etc. Mr. Rahman has joined CIRDAP in June 2006.



Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Bangladesh

[B.A (Hons), M.A. in History; M.A in 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 (LGRD&C) - Contact Ministry of CIRDAP. Though his expertise is on Administration and Management, he has developed knowledge on rural development of

Bangladesh while he worked as Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Deputy Project Director under the Ministry of LGRD&C. Mr. Anisuzzaman has joined CIRDAP as Administrative Officer in February 2005.



Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman, Bangladesh
[Master's in Statistics, Dhaka University]
Assistant Programme Officer (Research)

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. 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. Md. Abdur Rafe, Bangladesh
[B.Sc. in Computer Science, MCA, University of Madras, India]
Computer Programmer

He is an IT professional with comprehensive technical skill. He has developed his expertise on computer hardware, software and network management. He has worked in a number of national institutions/organisations and also has a good experience in teaching. Before joining CIRDAP, he was working in Dustha Shayastha Kendra (DSK), Bangladesh as IT officer. He also worked at Mercantile Bank and was a part-time lecturer at Bangladesh Institute of Management. He has carried out numerous IT projects and assignments in national and international organisations. Mr. Rafe has joined CIRDAP in August 2006.



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. He 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. Mr. Azam has joined CIRDAP in March 1991.



Mohammad Habibullah, Bangladesh
[M.Com in Management; MBA (Finance);
CA (cc); PGDPM (1st Part)]
Finance Officer

He has extensive experience in budgeting, financial planning and reporting, burning ratio of fund and reporting to donor agencies and other regular work under finance and budgeting. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked at the Finance & Administration section in Village Education Resource Centre (VERC), a National NGO, for eight years. Mr. Habibullah has joined CIRDAP in November 2006.



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 Assistant Information and Communications Officer. Ms. Zeenat has joined CIRDAP in August 1994.



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 on 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, Bangladesh]
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.

The staff-members who left CIRDAP during the year

Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed

Director, Research

Mr. Nathan Sarker

Computer Programmer

Dr. M.A. Momin

Special Officer

Mr. Jahangir Selim

Photographer-cum-Artist

Mr. Devi Prasad Mazumder

Project Officer

Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam

Clerk-Typist

Mr. Hanif Mahammed

Finance Officer

Mr. Belayet Hossain

Watchman

Other Staff-members

Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed	:	Finance Assistant
Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	:	Senior Secretary (Training)
Mr. M.S. Patwary	:	Secretary (Pilot Projects)
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	:	Secretary (Administration)
Mr. S. Sen Gupta	:	Property & Supply Assistant
Mr. M. Kabir Ahmed Siddiqui	:	Library Assistant
Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan	:	Secretary (Research)
Mr. Md. Akramullah	:	Cashier
Ms. Rebecca Gomes	:	Secretary to DG
Mr. Md. Mohibur Rahaman	:	Secretary (ICD)
Mr. Md. Mahbub Alam	:	Personnel Assistant
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	:	Computer Operator
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	:	Clerk-Typist (Finance)
Ms. Nowsheen Akter	:	Secretary-cum-Receptionist
Mr. Mustafa Kamal	:	Typist (Administration)
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. 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. Shimul Barua	:	Driver
Mr. Sujit Ch. Das	:	Janitor
Mr. Belayet Hossain	:	Janitor
Mr. Delwar Hossain	:	Janitor
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	:	Messenger
Mr. Martin Does	:	Messenger
Mr. Abdur Rahman Mollah	:	Gardener
Mr. Md. Raju Ahmed	:	Cook
Mr. Monir Hossain	:	Electrician
Ms. Parveen Begum	:	Cook

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AARDO	Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation	ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ADB	Asian Development Bank	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ALDA	Agrarian Reform Communities' Level of Development Assessment	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reforms	IRD	Integrated Rural Development
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	IT	Information Technology
ASA	Association for Social Advancement	JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
ASEAN	Association for South-East Asian Nations	LAN	Local Area Network
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	MLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
CDD	CIRDAP Development Digest	MNCs	Multi-National Corporations
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CKGRM	Comprehensive Knowledge Generation and Review Mechanism	MVRD	Model Village in Rural Development
CLIs	CIRDAP Link Institutions	NAM-CSSTC	Non-Aligned Movement for South-South Technical Cooperation
CLP	Char Livelihood Project	NCRD	National Centre for Rural Development
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
CONCS	CIRDAP On-line Newspaper Clipping Service	NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
CoP MfDR	Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations	PA	Poverty Alleviation
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Project	PAC	Personnel Advisory Committee
DAP	Department of Agricultural Planning	PKSF	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
DFID	Department for International Development	PPD	Pilot Projects Division
DG	Director General	PRMU	Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit
EC	Executive Committee	PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation	RD	Rural Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	RDR	Rural Development Report
GC	Governing Council	RSRDI	Regional Sustainable Rural Development Index
GIS	Geographic Information System	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
GO	Government Organisation	SHGs	Self-Help Groups
GoB	Government of Bangladesh	SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
HARTI	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute	SOCSEA	Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	SRDI	Sustainable Rural Development Index
ICD	Information and Communication Division	TC	Technical Committee
		UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
		VDCs	Village Development Committees
		WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development
		WTO	World Trade Organisation

Regional IRD Network

Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Country</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
Afghanistan	Foreign Relations Division Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Dev., Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Kotbari, Comilla - 3500	Rural Dev. & Coops. Div. Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Dev. & Cooperatives, Dhaka
India	National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Rajendranagar Hyderabad-500030	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 1100 01
Indonesia	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment (DGCVE) Ministry of Home Affairs, Jakarta-12510	Ministry of Home Affairs Medan Merdeka Utara 7 Jakarta 10110
Iran	Rural Development Planning Office Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Shahid Abbaspour Street Valiassr Avenue, Tehran	Economic and Planning Affairs Keshavars Boulevard Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Building-16, Tehran
Lao PDR	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services (NAFES) Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Vientiane	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P.O. Box 811 Vientiane
Malaysia	Institute of Rural Advancement Ministry of Rural & Regional Dev. Bandar Baru Bandi, 43000 Kajang Selangor	Ministry of Rural & Regional Development, Federal Govt. Administrative Centre, 62606 Putrajaya
Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agri. & Irrigation Govt. of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw
Nepal	Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Jawalakhel Lalitpur	Ministry of Local Development Shri Mahal, Pulchowk Lalitpur
Pakistan	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD & MA) Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, Hajvairy Plaza, Blue Area, Islamabad
Philippines	Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Department (BARBD) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	Department of Agrarian Reform 2/F, FAPsO Building Elliptical Road, Diliman Quezon City
Sri Lanka	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Colombo	Ministry of Agricultural Dev. & Agrarian Services Dev. Govijana Mandiraya Battaramulla
Thailand	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Cooperatives, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok
Vietnam	Department of Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Dept. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bach Thao Hanoi



Chameli House, CIRDAP