

# CIRDAP

*Annual Report*  
**2007**



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific



## CIRDAP

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

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

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

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

Within these areas of concern, the thematic areas identified for the Third Six-Year Plan (2002-2007) of the Centre are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (eg. health, education and nutrition); Employment generation through 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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## CIRDAP Annual Report 2007

Published by CIRDAP  
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Cover Photographs: Budhi Bakti Kalangie, Indonesia  
Abdul Malek Babul, Bangladesh  
Aris Munandar, Indonesia  
EK Raj Ojha, Nepal

Design & Printing: Dot Ad.





## 2007 *in Review*

### *Director General's Report*

CIRDAP has been a strong pivot of 14 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region for the past 28 years, bringing about a significant degree of peaceful collaboration between and among the policymakers, development practitioners and grassroots workers, with intensified advocacy on integrated, systematic and relevant strategies for rural development. Nevertheless, in view of the changes in global development paradigms to greater openness, free market, and participation of I/NGOs, civil societies and private sector in the development process, efforts were continued during the year to redefine the role of CIRDAP in the new context.

In recent times there has been a radical shift in the focus of rural development and policymakers and concerned international institutions like the FAO, World Bank and IFAD, observed that attention is required to some crucial policy issues and concerns that are: non-income dimensions of poverty such as access to education, preventive health care, etc.; mismatch between qualitative and quantitative dimensions in implementation of schemes; market and non-market considerations- resource distribution in favour of the poor and democratisation of markets; and participation and empowerment with a standard menu like economic growth, human development and social safety nets.

Furthermore, over the past decade, there has been a great spurt in the activities of regional organisations or associations like South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), who are trying to derive benefits from trade as a driving force of development. Their efforts have been significant in the free trade areas or preferential trade agreements although SAARC also is very much concerned about poverty in the region.

On the other hand, some regional organisations like Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) are unique in their functions, in the sense that their primary purpose is sharing of ideas, information and knowledge among the member countries for the purpose of sustainable development, particularly the development of backward sectors, areas or communities. As such CIRDAP fills an important niche, and it has to be associated with the activities of the organisations of same nature. This means rural development programmes of these regional institutions have to be harmonised so that a sustainable rural development with all its new frontiers and concerns, can be intensified and accelerated.

Since its inception, CIRDAP has implemented 308 projects, of which 80 are research, 45 are pilot projects, 146 are training and 37 are information and communication projects. These projects covered various aspects of agrarian reform and rural development and many of them were included in Peasant Charter of WCARRD of 1979. Among them are poverty alleviation, gender, institutional and infrastructural development, agrarian development, participatory approaches, GO-NGO collaboration, local resource mobilisation, microcredit, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism, environment and natural resources development, and food security.



Over the past few years, there had been a consistently decreasing trend in number and size of the projects particularly in research and pilot projects, mainly due to the emergence of other players in the servicing sector such as international and national non-government organisations (INGOs) and private consulting firms and their increasing use by the international donors. In this situation, CIRDAP is pursuing two-prong strategies for resource generation: first, it is positioning itself in the international policy framework so that CIRDAP will be logically included in the follow-up activities (e.g. ICARRD 2006); and the second strategy is to generate resources from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) through collaborative projects/programmes.

## **Rural Development Report 2007**

The CIRDAP's biennial publication, the Rural Development Report 2007, aims at keeping the policymakers, planners and practitioners in the field of rural development in the Asia-Pacific region abreast with current information and analysis of rural development policies and strategies in the region. The CMCs together account for 23 per cent of the world's land area, 32 per cent of the world population and 40 per cent of the total population in the developing countries. While CMCs have in general recorded notable strides over the last two decades in terms of GDP growth and rise in per capita income, they are yet to go a long way towards eradicating poverty, achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and fulfilling aspirations of the common people in improving their living standard and quality of life.

The more discomfiting fact is that the Asia-Pacific region accommodating the CMCs still has 40 per cent of the rural poor, 75 per cent of whom live and work in the rural areas. Poverty is thus a dominant rural phenomenon. The CMCs exhibit average poverty ratios between quarter and over half of the total population except Thailand and Malaysia. Further, despite significant structural transformation of most of the CMCs, the dominance of agriculture is still clearly visible in these countries, carrying significant employment. However, the agriculture in many CMCs is hard-pressed to cope with a growing population and an expanding labour force. Of course, the CMCs have been pursuing rural development and poverty alleviation efforts that are lacking in a holistic and synchronised approach. The report also stressed the fact that rural development has to be an important component of national development, focusing on the specific needs of the rural population and keeping linkages with the urban areas, so that a cohesive national development can take place.

## **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting**

The CIRDAP policy body meetings, the Executive Committee-26 (EC-26) and Governing Council-16 (GC-16) meetings, held in Manila, Philippines from 28 May to 1 June 2007, have decided to hold a high level Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific region in 2009 to express political will for promoting cooperation and strengthening collaboration in the field of rural development. Recognising that the struggle of millions of the rural poor living below the margins of human existence to survive is of great consequence to peace and stability of the world, the EC-26 and GC-16 directed CIRDAP to commission country-level studies in the CMCs for reviewing past policies and programmes on rural development and identifying policy-level issues and concerns. In order to evaluate CIRDAP itself from its strategic and institutional perspective, an evaluation team consisting of representatives from three CMCs (i.e. Iran, India and Malaysia) and experts from FAO, IFAD, CIRDAP and Japan was appointed.

The twenty-third regular meeting of the CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-23) was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand during 20-22 August 2007. The meeting agreed on a theme for the Ministerial Meeting 2009 and to name the year accordingly 'CIRDAP Year of Changing Rural Livelihoods'.



## ICARRD Follow-up

Enjoying a comparative advantage of having close links with the CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) and a strong base of regions and international contacts, CIRDAP strived hard to play the catalytic role of a powerful advocacy body to enhance regional cooperation in rural development/poverty alleviation (RD/PA). In the process CIRDAP organised its Second Regional Policy Dialogue on the theme 'Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: The Case of the Philippines' in Manila, Philippines on 30 May 2007, in-between EC-26 and GC-16 meetings. Agrarian reform gained a new impetus from FAO-ICARRD conference held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2006, at which CIRDAP identified some policy gaps that emerged over time and needed to be addressed to make agrarian reform and rural development inclusive, participatory and sustainable. In the CMCs the impact of tenancy reform, land distribution and institutional development is still debatable. Nevertheless the Philippines policy dialogue recognised that agrarian reform is one of the constituents of a comprehensive strategy for promotion of rural development in the CMCs.

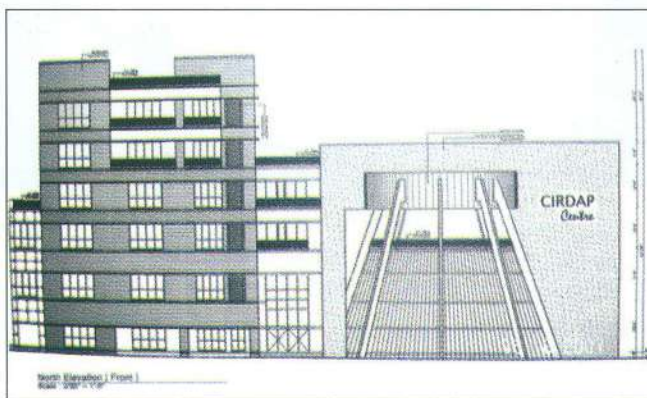
## Redefining Extended Role

On the occasion of CIRDAP's 28th Founding Anniversary, a 'Round-table Discussion on 'Resetting CIRDAP' in the New Global Context' was organised at its auditorium on 5 July 2007 with a view of redefining its new and extended role as a regional organisation. The participants identified several emerging areas, where CIRDAP could play key roles. Among them are: (i) to continue its role as a servicing institution for CMCs in the area of RD/PA; (ii) to take up follow-up actions of ICARRD, especially in the areas of agrarian reforms, food security, environment degradation, climate changes and impact on farm community; (iii) to analyse the impact of trade-related issues on rural community and help countries devise strategies to cope with adverse impacts of trade; (iv) to play a bridging role between regional associations such as SAARC, ASEAN and ECO; (v) to include as members Japan, China, Republic of Korea, and Australia and other Pacific countries, who attended 1978 Meeting on CIRDAP; and (vi) to work with national and regional NGOs, making them work for the benefit of the countries and play an advocacy role.

## Construction of International Conference Centre



*The Foundation Stone laying ceremony.*



*The Proposed Plan.*

In order to meet the infrastructural requirement for the forward-looking strategy of CIRDAP, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has committed financial support to the tune of US\$2.3 million for the construction of an International Conference Centre (ICC) with all modern facilities at CIRDAP HQ. The ICC is expected to be the venue of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting in 2009. The proposal of GoB for the construction of ICC was highly appreciated in the EC-26 and GC-16 meetings, and CMCs also



showed their keen interest in taking part in the internal decoration- designing and furnishing, computerisation, automation and mechanisation, as per request of CIRDAP.

## **Training Grant from India**

The Government of India has provided a grant of US\$294,684 for organising several regional training/exposure visit programmes through the Ministry of Rural Development/National Institute of Rural Development, India. These programmes were organised for capacity building efforts in the CMCs through knowledge dissemination, sharing of expertise of India on rural development and poverty alleviation.

## **Participation in International Forums**

### ***High-level Consultation on UN System-wide Coherence***



*President H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opening Regional High Level Consultation on UN-System Wide Coherence.*

A high-level UN consultation was held on 29-30 March 2007 in Java, Indonesia. The consultation discussed the report of the high level panel report, 'UN system-wide cohesiveness (SEC)' in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and environment. The panel was co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Pakistan, Norway and Mozambique. Director General (DG), CIRDAP while taking part in the consultation, drew attention to the fact that the role of UN is bigger than management of project implementation. For example, several recent international reports suggest that the market-led globalisation is not functioning in general on food security, employment creation and sustainable management of natural resources. Hence the role of the UN should help these countries/areas/ communities who are left behind by the market force.



### ***CIRDAP - SAARC MoU for Collaboration***

To boost up the step taken in pursuance of a decision at GC-15 Meeting, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on mutual collaboration was signed between CIRDAP and SAARC on 20 April 2007 at SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General CIRDAP and Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General of SAARC. The MoU established the general framework for partnership in the areas of mutual interest and benefits.



*Mr. Chenkyab Dorji (sitting L) and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal (sitting R) signing MoU.*

### ***AARDO Declaration***

DG CIRDAP participated in the Inter-Ministerial Summit/Retreat organised by the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) in collaboration with Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, during 8-12 July 2007. The Summit adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration' and resolved to eradicate poverty in all forms through well-designed policies supported by adequate resource allocation, mutual cooperation and collective action.

### ***CoP-MfDR Annual Planning***

CIRDAP also participated in the International Programme on 'Development Evaluation Training and CoP-MfDR Annual Planning' held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China on 12 October-2 November 2007. The main focus of the face-to-face event was to share experiences on monitoring and evaluation in promoting the results-based public management. People's Republic of China, World Bank, Asia-Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Finance and Development Centre were the sponsors of the training programme and CoP-MfDR Annual Meeting.



## **Programme Activities**

CIRDAP's Third Six-Year Plan (2002-2007) ended this year. The main thematic areas of the plans were: 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; and Environmental concern for sustainable development. The programme activities of CIRDAP were undertaken by four divisions i.e. Research, Pilot Projects, Training and Information and Communication. Some selected programmes are mentioned below:

### **Indicators Identified and Studies Initiated for Reviewing RD/PA Policies**

In line with the proposed CIRDAP evaluation, the policy-making bodies of CIRDAP recommended conducting studies on rural development in the CMCs as one of the major inputs in figuring out the new commitments in rural development and poverty alleviation in the region. The researchers meeting attended by nominated researchers from nine countries was held on 17 November 2007.

The researchers after deliberation suggested categorising the list of indicators into key result areas and their sub-indicators as follows:

- i. Rural Income, Agriculture Productivity and Infrastructure Support;
- ii. Basic Social Service: Nutrition, Health and Education;
- iii. Access to Land/Land Holding Patterns and Agrarians Reform;
- iv. Social Capital Development: Civil Societies/NGOs, Cooperatives, Gender and Development; and
- v. Environment and Ecological Integrity.

Some of the common issues and policy thrusts that were identified by researchers are: Extent of private sector participation; Extent of market liberalisation; and Conflict and disaster management, reconstruction and rehabilitation process. It was agreed that the title of the study incorporating these issues would be 'An Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIRDAP Member Countries: Future Opportunities', the first draft of which would be submitted in end March 2008.

### **Synergising Good Practices**

The Government of Bangladesh had been implementing integrated rural development (IRD) programmes since 1960s following the famous 'Comilla Model' at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) at Comilla.

Based on this experience, IRD Expert of CIRDAP presented a paper entitled 'Revisiting the Integrated Rural Development (IRD): Bangladesh and Japan' during the twenty-second regular meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-22).

The paper proposed a landmark initiative to synergise the good practices of different projects to achieve better outcomes of individual projects. Thereafter, preliminary informal discussions ensued as guided by CIRDAP and facilitated through Pilot Projects Division (PPD) of CIRDAP, with representatives from the agencies implementing the four projects.

The formal discussion was held on 18 October 2006 wherein the key features of the four selected projects were presented. The scope for coordinating these projects was identified and conceived as ideal for modelling a coordination mechanism.



Currently, there are four IRD projects focusing on local governance and poverty reduction being implemented by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (MoLGRD&C). The Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund Project (SLGDFP) and the Local Development Coordination Programme (LDCP) are both being implemented under Local Government Division (LGD). Likewise, the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) and Participatory Rural Development Project (PRDP) are being spearheaded by Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RDCE). However the projects lacked a common vision.

### **Capacity Building in CMCs**

The Training Division carried out its activities keeping in mind the mandate of CIRDAP, and the need for capacity building of officials from the CMCs so as to enable them to acquire knowledge, skills and motivation with ultimate objective of helping them in order to empower local communities to plan for their own development.

The number of participants in these training programmes over the years has exceeded 6000, thus having a great impact in the Asia-Pacific region.

During the year there were regional programmes that impart training on a wide spectrum of subjects relevant to rural development. Several capacity building programmes such as regional training programmes, collaborative activities, exposure visits etc. were also put on ground. In all nine programmes were successfully completed with a total participation of 161 officials.

For capacity building, the methods adopted were training sessions, in which theoretical and practical orientation have been provided to the officials concerned. The training sessions were basically combined with lectures, group formation and group exercises, audio-visual presentations, learning through sharing, case studies, exposure and field visits, and direct interactions with the grassroots people, project beneficiaries and successful entrepreneurs.

### **Image Building and Dissemination of Information**

ICD applied its skill and creativity to promote and upgrade internal and external image of CIRDAP through information generation, management and dissemination; Information Communication Technology Support Services; CIRDAP Website development; Library Services; Audio-visual Services; and Public Relations.

Adhering to a free access policy, all CIRDAP publications are now being made available online. Judging from the large number of articles received and number of citations, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development has become one of the leading peer reviewed journals in the region.

The CIRDAP Website <http://www.cirdap.org.sg> has been made more dynamic and pro-active. It is now being visited by many from all five continents.

The CIRDAP Library has taken initiative to add another feature to the website by introducing a 'CIRDAP Rural Development Abstracts' service.

### **SOCSEA**

The need to link CIRDAP closely with South-East Asia and the Pacific countries led to the establishment of Sub-regional office of CIRDAP (SOCSEA) in Jakarta, Indonesia in

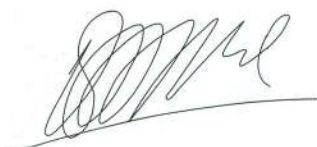
1997. Since then it continued to expand its activities in several spheres. During the year SOCSEA has conducted three regional and eight in-country capacity building training programmes involving regional and local organisations.

## **Rural Development - An Imperative**

The recent pronouncement that 'Asia is a region of achievements and paradoxes' exemplifies widening gaps over the region with economic boom and poverty stricken rural areas that are excluded from success. Hence, the importance of a broad based rural development policy is enormous. Such policies will minimise rural-urban migration as well as ensure sustainable growth and environment friendly development in the rural areas.

CIRDAP is a unique organisation having three policy level bodies represented by the senior officials and policymakers of rural development in the CMCs. The recently introduced New Strategic Framework of CIRDAP emphasised these policy bodies in deliberating on emerging policy issues on rural development and addressing them through regional cooperation among CMCs.

However, the primary responsibility for rural development rests with individual governments, and hence sustained and effective programme requires strong political commitment. With such a support forthcoming, CIRDAP is determined to play an even more effective role to facilitate regional cooperation and poverty alleviation in the coming years.



**Dr. Durga P. Paudyal**  
Director General



## *Policy Body Meetings*

### **16<sup>th</sup> GC and 26<sup>th</sup> EC Meetings**

The Sixteenth Governing Council Meeting (GC-16) and the Twenty-sixth Executive Committee Meeting (EC-26) of CIRDAP were held on 30-31 May 2007 and 27-28 May 2007 respectively in Manila, Philippines.

The Ministerial meeting of CIRDAP's highest policy body, the Governing Council (GC-16) was held in Manila on 31 May-1 June 2007. The Sixteenth Regular meeting of the Governing Council was inaugurated by H.E. M. Eduardo R. Ermita, Executive Secretary (Senior Minister) of the Government of Philippines. The meeting sought to identify areas for collaborative efforts that could benefit the ongoing rural development programme and projects of the Asia-Pacific Region.

The meetings were attended by Ministers and Secretaries of Rural Development and relevant ministries from the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) and their representatives. Representatives of International Organisations like IFAD (Rome), FAO (Bangkok), the Commonwealth Secretariat (UK) and ADB (Manila) attended the meetings as observers. Senior Government officials of the Host Country, Philippines, Diplomatic Personnel from Member Countries and CIRDAP IRD expert (Japan) also attended the meetings.



*Group photograph of GC-16 Meeting.*

During the inaugural function for GC-16, H.E. M. Eduardo R. Ermita mentioned that continued development of agriculture and the institutions and effective rural development programmes such as agrarian reforms, are the means to reduce poverty.

H.E. Mr. Nasser C. Pangandaman, Secretary (Minister) of Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of the Government of Philippines and H.E. Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, Advisor, Ministry of LGRD&C of Bangladesh and Chairperson of the previous GC (GC-15) also spoke.



Dr. Durga P Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP mentioned that the new Strategic Framework of CIRDAP has emphasised to engage the policy bodies of the Centre in deliberating on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation. He hoped that with the political support and guidance from member countries, CIRDAP will play a more effective role to promote regional cooperation in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation among countries of the Asia Pacific region.

H.E. Gerundio C. Madueno, Under-Secretary, Support Services Office of the Department of Agrarian Reforms proposed a vote of thanks to everyone who has helped to make this GC-16 Meeting successful one.

Earlier, during the inauguration of EC-26, the inaugural address of H.E. Mr. Nasser C. Pangandaman, Secretary (Minister), Department of Agrarian reform (DAR), of Philippines who is also the Vice Chairperson of the previous GC (GC-15), was delivered by H.E. Narciso B. Nieto, Under-Secretary for field operations. The Honourable Secretary of DAR while welcoming the delegates mentioned that CIRDAP has always been a promising institution assisting its member countries in the areas of poverty alleviation, rural development etc. and trying to expand its partnership at regional and international level.



*Group photograph of EC-26 Meeting.*

Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam Secretary RDCD and the Chairperson EC-25, and Honourable Gerundio C. Madueno, Under-Secretary, DAR and Vice Chairperson, CIRDAP Executive Committee-25 and the special guest also spoke.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, in his welcome address, conveyed his high appreciation to the Government of Philippines for hosting the EC-26 Meeting in Manila. He mentioned that CIRDAP could play a bridging role between ASEAN and SAARC at the professional level. He urged the meeting to come up with concrete suggestions to CIRDAP for making a meaningful contribution to the global fight against poverty. Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones, Director Department of Agrarian Reforms delivered the vote of thanks.

During the business session of GC-16, Philippines and Sri Lanka were unanimously elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of GC-16, respectively. Likewise, in the business session of EC-26, Philippines and Sri Lanka were unanimously elected as the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of EC-26 respectively.



During the meetings Director General of CIRDAP briefed the members about the Centre's activities and efforts throughout the past two years. He mentioned the MoU signed with SAARC Secretariat, and the preparation for an MoU signing with ASEAN sometime this year. CIRDAP has already signed similar MoUs with organisations like ICIMOD, NAM-CSSTC for technical collaboration in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation. He also mentioned CIRDAP's participation in international conferences like ICARRD of FAO and MfDR.

The GC-16 and EC-26 meetings discussed at length the activities and suggested directions and strategies for implementation by the Centre, which include holding a ministerial meeting on rural development in 2009 in Dhaka with funding from the government of Japan. The preparation for the meeting will include an assessment of rural development policies and approaches in the changing context and redefining the role of CIRDAP and other organisational issues like carrying out an evaluation of the Centres performance etc.

Other discussed issues include Afghanistan's request for support in establishing an Institute for Rural development, Malaysia and India's interest in holding regional policy dialogues on rural development related issues, Government of India's interest in possible support in the field of ICT in the member countries, Strengthening infrastructure at CIRDAP HQs and construction of an International Conference Centre at the HQs' premises by the government of Bangladesh etc. Following are some of the concrete decisions and recommendations made by the GC-16 and EC-26:

- It was decided to thank the Government of Japan for positively responding to the request of CIRDAP for organising the Ministerial Meeting in 2009.
- Regarding the administrative matters on the personnel development policy of CIRDAP, it was decided to refer to the proposed CIRDAP Evaluation Sub-Committee to be set up as part of the second Ministerial Meeting.
- CIRDAP would prepare an MoU, to be signed with ECO in collaboration with Iran
- IFAD, NABARD (India), NAM-CSSTC, ICIMOD are approved to be the TC Members. The tenure of IRD Expert Dr. Kaida is extended for two more years, as recommended by EC-26.
- As recommended by EC-26, the Governing Council approved the revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the period 2006-2007 and the PWB for fifteenth Biennium (2008-2009).
- The Governing Council approved the report on the audited final accounts of the Centre 2004 and 2005 and the report of the interim account of the Centre for the year 2006 in accordance with the recommendation made by the EC-26 in this connection.
- With regards to the Proposal for the Second Ministerial Meeting of Rural Development of Asia and Pacific in 2009, the revised agenda was approved in totality with the following decisions:
  1. An Evaluation Team will be constituted consisting of the following:
    - i. Iran from West Asia
    - ii. India from South Asia
    - iii. Malaysia from South East Asia
    - iv. Request FAO to second one expert as a member
    - v. Request IFAD to second one expert as a member
    - vi. Request the Government of Japan to second one expert as a member
    - vii. A senior professional of CIRDAP



2. The Government of Bangladesh will host the Ministerial Meeting in 2009 while the Government of Japan will provide funding support for organising the meeting. The Ministerial Meeting will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh sometime in October-November 2009. The invitation will be extended to all countries of the CIRDAP Agreement. UN agencies, major donor agencies and some other countries will also be invited. The meeting will be organised for 3 days, back to back with GC meeting. The Ministerial Meeting will also have a broad theme of contemporary relevance. A high level lecture by an eminent person on the relevant topic could also be arranged during the Ministerial Meeting.
3. The Evaluation Committee will look into the strategic and institutional perspectives of CIRDAP. ToR of the Committee will be as follows:
  - Review the context and mandate given to CIRDAP.
  - Review the achievements of CIRDAP during the past 27 years.
  - Review the changing policies and context at national and international level especially in relation to RD and PA.
  - Visit, at least, one country by each member and headquarters of regional centres such as SAARC, ICIMOD, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, ECO etc. and interact with them.

Recommend on the following aspects, among others:

- Redefining the role of CIRDAP in the new context of globalisation.
  - Institutional linkage of CIRDAP with FAO and other UN bodies and international organisations.
  - Institutional networking between CIRDAP and CMCs on an operational level.
  - Institutional linkage with other inter-governmental organisations such as ECO, SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, ICIMOD, GMS etc.
  - Resource generation to make a significant impact in the new challenges.
  - Expansion of membership to other countries (e.g. Bhutan, Maldives, Cambodia, East Timor, China, RoK etc.) and other regions (e.g. Middle East, Central Asia, Pacific Island etc.).
  - Scope for the engagement of CIRDAP with CSOs and NGOs working in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation.
4. The Committee should complete the work in six months. CIRDAP will provide travel, accommodation and secretarial assistance during their visit and stay in CIRDAP. CIRDAP will also arrange their visit to other member countries and the headquarters of other regional organisations.
  5. The Meeting will be held combining with regular meeting of Governing Council sometime in the last quarter of 2009 in Bangladesh.
- It was unanimously agreed to place on record the appreciation of GC Members for the initiatives and support given by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the construction of international Conference Centre in the CIRDAP HQs.
  - Regarding country contribution for providing facilities within the International Conference Centre, as recommended by EC-26, CIRDAP has to prepare and send to all the CMCs item-wise cost estimates for their participation and support.
  - Cost estimates for a full-fledged ICT and Data Centre to be installed in the International Conference Centre will be prepared by CIRDAP.
  - The range of contribution to the regional cooperation fund of CIRDAP will be equivalent to US\$25000 or more as one time contribution. The agenda as recommended by EC-26 is approved by GC-16.



- With regards to the Amendment of the CIRDAP Agreement has been deferred and proposed Evaluation Committee will look into the matter and CIRDAP will place it in the next EC and GC meeting to be held in 2009.

During the meetings, Government of Sri Lanka agreed to host the next EC meeting, while the next GC meeting will be held combining with Second Ministerial Meeting in the last quarter of 2009 in Bangladesh.

At the end of the meetings, the delegates were taken to a field visit to the Batac Agrarian Reform Community in Calatagan, Batangas to showcase Philippines' progress in developing rural communities and engaging farmers' co-operatives into business opportunities other than farming.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> TC Meeting

The Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-23) was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand during 20-22 August 2007. TC members from all the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), except Iran, attended the meeting. Member representatives from ICIMOD, NABARD, FAO and observers from ADB and the Commonwealth Secretariat were also present at the meeting.

The inaugural ceremony was held at Chiang Mai, Thailand on 20 August 2007. H. E. Dr. Rungruang Isarangkura, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Co-operatives, the Royal Government of Thailand inaugurated the TC-23 Meeting as the Chief Guest. While extending a warm welcome to all the distinguished delegates, the Chief Guest mentioned that like other countries, Thailand is committed to a national policy that addresses issues related to agriculture and rural development. Its economic policy is based on the philosophy of 'sufficiency economy' initiated by His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. He felt the need to put in more efforts in poverty eradication and raising farm incomes and wished for successful deliberations at the meeting.



*Group photograph of TC-23 Meeting.*

H.E. Mr. Gerundio 'Khaliq' C. Madueno, Under-Secretary for Support Services, Department of Agrarian Reform, Government of the Philippines, and Chairperson of the CIRDAP Executive Committee eminent Observer. As chairperson of the CIRDAP Executive Committee, he felt that the TC-23 Meeting is very significant, as it is being held barely two months after the EC-26 and GC-16 meetings coinciding with a policy



dialogue on agrarian reforms held in Manila. These meetings recognised the importance of CIRDAP as a regional organisation in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation.

Dr. Silavanh Sawathvong, Deputy Director General of National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services (NAFES), Government of Lao PDR and Chairperson of TC-22 chaired the session. He reflected upon the milestones that TC-22 has gone through during the last year and appreciated the role of CIRDAP in knowledge development, capacity building, collaboration and cooperation among CIRDAP member countries, consultation with stakeholders etc.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, in his welcome address, appreciated the cooperation and contributions of TC members for the growth of CIRDAP and referred to some of its important achievements like the preparation of rural development report with the cooperation of TC members, follow-up of ICARRD resolutions, strengthening of bilateral relationships with link institutions and enhancement of partnerships. On behalf of all the delegates, he thanked the chief guest, special guest and other special invitees and dignitaries and thanked the National FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Thailand for hosting the TC-23 Meeting in the beautiful city of Chiang Mai.

During the business session, Dr. Suthiporn Chirapanda, Secretary General, National FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Thailand, was elected the Chairperson of TC-23, as proposed by Sri Lanka and seconded by Bangladesh and Indonesia.

## **Activities Report**

Director General of CIRDAP while presenting CIRDAP's activities, reported several developments that took place after the TC-22 meeting. Some of them are:

- Establishing linkage with other regional/ international organisations e.g. SAARC, NAM (Jakarta) and ICIMOD (Kathmandu).
- New proposals and new initiatives have been taken up e.g., bilateral projects, IFAD's approval for funding a research project and also Japan agreeing to fund the second Ministerial meeting during 2009 etc.
- CIRDAP conducted several regional and country level training programmes. The training division also extended its contact with new institutions, opened new areas and methodology.
- The IC Division has made efforts to connect CIRDAP with member countries (CMCs), rural development academia and researchers in the region.
- Research division is working on understanding the dynamics of social changes, organising Policy Dialogue and preparation of Rural Development Report.
- The Pilot projects Division is implementing IFAD funded SCOPE project and has taken up another project on coordination of good practices of four selected IRD projects in Bangladesh.
- The Sub-regional office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) in Jakarta, has been participating in CIRDAP projects and organising local and regional programmes. It also collaborated with the regional governments in organising in-country programmes.
- The renovation work of the CIRDAP Headquarters, the old heritage building 'Chameli House' has been completed. The foundation stone was laid for the International Conference Centre at CIRDAP Campus in Dhaka, which is to be completed by 2009.



- CIRDAP also participated in a number of international conferences such as ARRDO Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi, MfDR Round Table Conference in Hanoi, etc and presented its viewpoint.

The delegate from Afghanistan reflected upon Afghanistan's participation in Training activities and desired to have more participation in future and to bridge the communication gap between CIRDAP and its Link Ministry in Afghanistan. The delegate from NABARD, India suggested research activities pertaining to 'absentee land-lordism', microfinance regulation and supervision, rural insurance programmes etc.

Reports on the programme activities of the CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) were presented by the 13 member country delegates attending the TC-23 Meeting. In addition, a presentation was made by NABARD, India, on its activities.

Director General of CIRDAP briefly presented the recommendations and suggestions of the recent EC-26 and GC-16 meetings held in Manila, Philippines. He informed the meeting that the Second Ministerial Meeting of Rural Development of Asia and the Pacific will be held in 2009, and will be hosted by Government of Bangladesh. An Evaluation Committee consisting of experts from CMCs, international agencies and donors was formed to look into the strategic and institutional perspectives of CIRDAP. The initiative of the Government of Bangladesh to construct International Conference Centre in the CIRDAP HQs was highly appreciated by GC members and pledged to participate in the interior decoration.

### **Ministerial Meeting**

The Ministerial Meeting 2009 is proposed to discuss the country-level studies, policy-level issues and concerns and Evaluation report on CIRDAP towards framing strategic and institutional perspectives of the Centre. Director General presented the agenda and requested Dr. S. Narayan who has been entrusted with the preparation of a background study, to elaborate the country study design and also invited suggestions from the participants.

Dr. Narayan mentioned that the pattern of development is different across the countries of the region, but there are some patterns which are uniform. He mentioned that integrated rural development has yielded place to sectoral focus, rapid expansion of global trade resulting in impact differentials and income disparities leading to questions like integrating rural people with the changes in the market. He mentioned that with the share of agriculture in GDP is declining and unemployment increasing, what is to be done in terms of employment, productivity and markets. This is where the importance of CIRDAP emerges to fulfil a regional agenda. The country studies will look into these important aspects, among others.

The meeting agreed on a theme for the Ministerial Meeting 2009 and to name it accordingly as 'CIRDAP year of Changing Rural Livelihoods'.

### **New Initiatives**

Director, Training, made a presentation on the initiative taken on bilateral cooperation by CIRDAP recently. India approved two regional programmes and others are under active consideration. Some programmes will be conducted in Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal in addition to India. Pakistan has approved funding for two regional training programmes.

Director, Research, made a brief presentation on projects proposals submitted to donors (IFAD, FAO, DFID, IDRC, Commonwealth and SARD-M) and the present status of these



proposals. The proposal on creating platforms for knowledge generation and policy dialogue on access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor in four Asian countries has been approved by IFAD.

### **Utilisation of Regional Cooperation Fund**

The Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) will be utilised for building capacity of the Human Resources in CIRDAP, Contact ministries and Link institutions, disseminate information on achievements of the countries in the implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, enlarge regional co-operation with enhanced activities and opening it up to new subjects and new partners and support intellectual dialogues and meetings within the region.

The delegate of Pakistan informed the meeting of the decision of contributing US\$25,000 to the Regional Cooperation Fund and it was noted with appreciation that Pakistan is the first country to contribute to the regional cooperation fund.

### **Others**

After discussions, 'Changing Rural Livelihoods: Constraints and Opportunities' was accepted as the theme for the Rural Development Report 2009.

The idea of formation of Expert Group by CIRDAP was appreciated by all the members. The members of the expert group need not be exclusively from the CLIs or CMCs.

ADB delegates made an elaborate presentation on Community of Practice on Managing for Development Result (CoP-MfDR). He also extended invitation to four participants from CIRDAP to attend the training programme in Shanghai, China from 22 October to 3 November 2007.

The next Technical Committee meeting (TC-24) was agreed to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in May 2008.



## *CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar*

CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) is a forum of the CIRDAP staff (both professional and support) from top to bottom to review divisional/unit activities of the previous year and to set target for the next year. It is also the forum to find suitable agenda and inputs for the forthcoming Governing Council (GC), Executive Committee (EC) and Technical Committee (TC) meetings. Divisions/Units make their plan in consultation and in association with members of the divisions and the entire centre.

CIARPS 2006 was held in CIRDAP Headquarters for two days on 28-29 January 2007.

CIARPS 2006 was inaugurated by Mr. A.F.M. Matiur Rahman, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RD&C), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD&C) of the Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head of Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA), Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director ICD, Mr. Md. Ischak, Assistant to the Head of SOCSEA, and all other Professional, Technical and General staff of CIRDAP attended the inaugural and business session of the seminar.

In his inaugural address as Chief Guest, Mr. A.F.M. Matiur Rahman recalled the contribution of Late Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan and his Comilla approach which played a pioneering role in rural development (RD) in Bangladesh and also contributed to other Third World countries.



*CIARPS 2006 in progress.*



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal thanked the Chief Guest for ensuring his all-out support to get CIRDAP involved in the implementation process of PRSP. Stressing on the needs for bilateral projects, he said CIRDAP should be owned by the member countries and the Centre should implement the member countries' agenda. CIRDAP's presence in each country must be enhanced, he maintained.

Highlighting the background of establishment of CIRDAP, he said that even in the changing context of rural development, when paradigm shifts occurred in the '80s and '90s, the necessity of IRD is still valid. If NGOs, INGOs are very useful for development, local government institutions are needed for sustainable development, hence CIRDAP is in the right track, he mentioned.

## **Business Session**

The Business Session chaired by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP, covered five agenda items:

Under Agenda Item 1, Mr. Majibur Rahman, Coordinator, presented a report on the recommendations and suggestions of the CIARPS-2005. After presentation, on the basis of discussions, a final report was made. It was also decided that the suggestions and recommendations of CIARPS would be incorporated in the working papers of EC and GC Meetings to be held in May-June 2007.

Under Agenda Item 2, eight papers were presented, reviewing the past activities and formulating work plan for the future. The presentations came from Research, Pilot Projects, Training, Information and Communication, and Administration and Finance divisions and Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit (PRMU) of CIRDAP, and SOCSEA.

Under Agenda Items 3 and 4, Finance Officer, presented the Revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the Fourteenth Biennium (2006-2007). The participants took part in the discussion, and it was decided that the divisions concerned would re-evaluate their programmes and budget.

Under Agenda Item 5, DG CIRDAP briefly presented the report on the activities of CIRDAP for the period 2005-2006.

Under Agenda Item 6, follow-up actions on the decisions, recommendations and suggestions of GC-16, EC-25, and TC-22 meetings were discussed. The divisions and individuals concerned have been requested to take action immediately against those suggestions, recommendations and decisions of the policy bodies, which were not followed up properly.

## **Suggestions/Recommendations in the CIARPS-2006**

The overall suggestions and recommendations of the CIARPS-2006 are summarised, division-wise, and given below:

### **Research**

- Research programmes should concentrate on policy research which is their area, and identify and analyse the problems in policies of the 14 CMCs.
- Divisions should be more careful in taking up projects which overlap other divisional activities, e.g. research should take documentation of projects in collaboration with ICD.



- Research should also focus on result based activities, other than various discussions and coordinations.
- CIRDAP can explore convening a donors meeting for research projects, at a suitable time.

## **Pilot Projects**

- Pilot Project Division (PPD) should seek to replicate the JICA-sponsored Zambian programmes (PASViD) in other similar countries, where JICA has major programmes (e.g. Tanzania, Ethiopia etc.).
- PPD programmes are dependent only on a few donors; the division may search for other possible donors to sponsor their programmes.
- PPD and ICD should sit together to develop strategies on how to propagate the innovative activities from within their projects.
- A synthesis of the CARD approach can be uploaded in the CIRDAP website.

## **Training**

- The training programmes are dependent on only one country for sponsoring; other countries should be also explored similarly.
- Training on country-specific topics can be thought of for regional or in-country programmes.
- The impact of training programmes can be assessed and the CMCs can be made aware of this, for our benefit and to encourage them to participate more.
- Reports of the training programmes should be published regularly.
- Proposals for exposure visit programmes to Malaysia and Egypt for high level officials to be prepared by training Division, as suggested by DG.
- The division can explore inclusion of at least one CIRDAP staff in each of their many training programmes.
- Other divisions should follow the example of training division and propagate more activities.

## **Information and Communication**

- In CIRDAP web site, photo bank should be there.
- Links between CLIs and country focal institutions are weak in terms of exchange of information - these should be looked into.
- Information and Communication Division (ICD) should be clear in its role: it should make itself more equipped to be a professional division and should generate its own resources, attract donors etc.
- ICD should explore whether distribution of publications can be handled by professional distributors, which can be cost-effective.
- Publicity/propaganda activities for the Centre should be strengthened.
- Stock taking of publications should be regularly maintained.
- A proper centralised mechanism for maintaining mailing list should be developed by ICD and made operational as soon as possible.
- Reviewers from abroad for APJORD can be thought of, using e-mail as communication channel.
- SOCSEA maybe sent publications in bulk so that they can distribute within Indonesia.



## **Administration**

- There should be a clear and transparent policy in CIRDAP for DSA.
- There should be a clear mechanism for supply of stationeries to the divisions.
- Finance section should be strengthened with additional manpower.
- Purchase committee should be more aware about the financial regulations.

## **SOCSEA**

- SOCSEA should prepare successful case studies to be disseminated through CIRDAP publications, website etc.

## **PRMU**

- PRMU should think about mobilising resources from other countries.
- CIRDAP can explore the possibility of changing the PRMU into a strategic planning division, it can deal with resource mobilisation, internally and externally, look into programme/funding strategies of donors and take the lead in strategising CIRDAP.
- Monthly monitoring system for the divisions can be reintroduced.

## **General**

- The CIRDAP operation manual and staff rules are outdated (27 years old) - particularly the financial rules and regulations.
- There should be an efficient system of setting up travel itineraries for CIRDAP staff.
- There should be an efficient system of distribution and document movement within the Centre.
- CIRDAP should look into the existing salary structure and explore the possibilities for improvement to attract quality professionals.

## **Concluding Session**

At the concluding part of the seminar, Dr. Durga Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP and Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head, SOCSEA delivered their concluding remarks evaluating the overall impact of the CIARPS-2006.



## *Research*

Rural Development Report 2007

Second Regional Policy Dialogue on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Roundtable Discussion on Resetting the Role of CIRDAP

Rural Non-Farm Sector -Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation - Road Map for Bangladesh

Shanghai Programme for Development Evaluation Training & CoP-MfDR Plan

Researchers' Meeting on Strategic and institutional Perspective of CIRDAP

Revisiting Its Role in the Changing Context

Brainstorming on CIRDAP E-Forum: Results-Based M&E of Rural Development

Country Focus Studies on 'An Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIRDAP Member Countries: Future Opportunities'

Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and Other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in Four Asian Countries

### **Focused Areas**

- Rural development policies, issues and concerns
- Assessment of rural development initiatives in CIRDAP countries
- Poverty reduction strategies
- Rural non-farm activities
- Agrarian reform
- Land distribution
- Access to land and other natural resources
- Resetting CIRDAP role in global context
- Community of practice and managing for development results
- Results-based monitoring and evaluation
- CIRDAP E-Forum



*A presentation in progress at the Second Policy Dialogue in Manila.*



## Research Division

In line with the strategic priorities of rural development endeavours in the CMCs, and consistent with the CIRDAP mandate towards poverty reduction, the Research Division, has consistently focused on furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development (IRD) programmes in the member countries. The guidelines of the policy bodies of CIRDAP i.e. the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee are the basis for formulating the research agenda of the Division. Recently completed and ongoing research projects address specific issues in these areas.

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

### Rural Development Report 2007

CIRDAP published a report on the progress and achievement in the context of rural development in the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) titled Rural Development Report (RDR) 2007. This biennial report is aimed at keeping the policymakers, planners and practitioners in the field of rural development (RD) in the Asia-Pacific region abreast with current information and analysis of the RD policies and strategies in the region. The report covers all the CMCs, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The RDR 2007 has been prepared focusing on the theme of agrarian reform and rural development highlighting the importance of agrarian reforms, diversification of rural economy through promotion of rural non-farm activities (RNAs), rural employment generation and rural governance and decentralisation as pertinent issues for achieving sustained rural development and poverty alleviation in the CMCs.

According to the report, the 14 member countries of CIRDAP spreading over wide geographical locations and distancing between Far East and South-East Asia constitute a heterogeneous group exhibiting significant variations in their topographic and demographic characteristics and levels of socio-economic development. The CMCs together account for 23 per cent of the world's land area, 32 per cent of the world population and 40 per cent of the total population of the developing countries.

While the CMCs have in general recorded notable strides over the last two decades in terms of GDP growth and rise in per capita incomes, they are yet to go a long way towards eradicating poverty, achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and fulfilling aspirations of the common people in improving their living standard and quality of life. The most discomfiting fact is that the Asia-Pacific region accommodating the CMCs is still home for over 40 per cent of the world's poor, 75 per cent of whom live and work in the rural areas. Poverty is thus a dominantly rural phenomenon in the region. The CMCs exhibit average poverty ratios between quarter and over half of the total population except Thailand and Malaysia.

Despite significant structural transformation of most of CMCs, the dominance of agriculture is still clearly visible in these countries, carrying significant weight as means of livelihood and sources of employment. However, the agricultural sector in many



CMCs is hard-pressed to cope with the growing population and an expanding labour force. Low per capita availability of cultivable land, prevalence of smallholder subsistence farming, inadequate exploitation of the technology frontier, low productivity and unstable growth still haunt majority of the CMCs agricultural sector as critical bottlenecks. Of course, the CMCs have been pursuing rural development and poverty alleviation efforts of almost bewildering variety and style with varying degrees of success, but the approaches are often fragmented and uncoordinated lacking a holistic and synchronised approach. Rural development has to be seen as an important component of national development, focusing on the specific needs of the rural population and also keeping linkages with the urban areas, so that a cohesive national development takes place, taking advantages of the rural-urban continuum. More importantly, for attaining faster, sustainable and equitable economic and social development, the CMCs must adequately address some important issues which include: articulation of the RD and PA policies in the changed national and global context, taking into cognizance the need for using information communication technology (ICT) facilities for rural economic transformation, importance of social and cultural concerns, alliance building among government-civil society and NGOs in RD policy implementation and filling up the critical policy and institutional gaps affecting the RD policy implementation process. Deliberate attempts at cooperation, integration and harmonisation of policies and activities among the regional and global organisations for sharing best practices and achieving better outcomes must be made, besides bilateral agreements on particular issues. Undoubtedly, CIRDAP as a regional organisation can play an important role in this respect for the CMCs in the Asia-Pacific region and also for others outside the region through acting as a networking institution.

It is hoped that the RDR 2007 of CIRDAP would be useful to the policymakers and rural development practitioners.

## **Second Regional Policy Dialogue on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development**

Following the new strategic framework of CIRDAP approved in the Fifteenth Policy Body Meeting in 2005 in Dhaka, the Second Regional Policy Dialogue on the theme



*H.E. Noli de Castro addressing the inaugural session of the Policy Dialogue.*



'Agrarian Reform and Rural Development' was held in Manila, Philippines on 30 May 2007, coinciding with the Twenty-sixth Executive Committee and Sixteenth Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP. The purpose of holding the Regional Policy Dialogue was to engage the policy bodies of CIRDAP in deliberation on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation and addressing them through regional cooperation among CMCs. Policymakers from 14 CIRDAP countries took part in the Policy Dialogue.

High-level delegations of the CIRDAP policy bodies were composed of H.E.s, the Ministers and Secretaries of line Ministries in CMCs who came to attend the regular meetings of CIRDAP policy body (Executive Committee/Governing Council) in Manila. Other distinguished participants and guests included, among others, representatives of UN organisations- FAO/RAP and donor community, specialised agencies, international organisations, GOs/NGOs/INGOs, academicians, researchers, and select members of civil society. H.E. Noli De Castro, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines inaugurated the programme as chief guest. Mr. Muhammed Anwarul Iqbal, Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-15) and Mr. Nasser C. Pangandaman, Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Philippines, and Vice Chairman to the 15th Governing Council also spoke at the inaugural session. Introductory remarks were made by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP.

The Chief Guest, in his inaugural speech, emphasised the need for agrarian reform in order to combat poverty in the rural areas because majority of the people live in rural areas and their means of livelihood centres on land. He underscored the need for partnership; building and the participation of the broadest sectors of society, including civil society groups, the private sector, local government units and even former landowners to enhance the accountability and sense of responsibility of both programme implementers and beneficiaries in ensuring the success of any programme.

The technical session was chaired by Mr. Muhammed Anwarul Iqbal, Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-15). Dr. Durga Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, welcomed the delegates to the policy dialogue. The Chair while setting the tone of the policy dialogue, stressed that without effective agrarian reform and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, sustainable poverty alleviation and rural development is not possible. He added that most of the CMCs have tried several models of agrarian reform measures with varied levels of success, and made special mention of the Philippine experience as internationally acclaimed for its success and from which other countries could learn.

In the Policy Dialogue, the following four papers were presented: Status of Agrarian Reform and rural Development in the CIRDAP Member Countries by Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Director, Research, CIRDAP; Agrarian Reform and Poverty Reduction in the Philippines by Arsenio Balisacan; Institutional Aspects of Policy Implementation and Management of the Philippines Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programmes by Conrado S. Navaro; and Bridging Issues on Access to Land through Land Partnerships in the Philippines by Antonio Quizon, Mynardo Mendoza, Gregerio Quitanzon and Maricel A. Tolentino.

The designated discussants were Dr. Wim Polman, Rural Development Officer of FAO/RAP, Bangkok and Dr. Hans Meliczek of GTZ. Besides, the heads of CIRDAP Link Institutions of India and Sri Lanka also shared their experience in their own countries as special guests. The day-long Policy Dialogue was concluded with an open discussion by the H.E. ministers/delegates, participants and observers. The vote of thanks was read by the Director General, CIRDAP.



## Issues and Concerns

The presentations of the case studies of the Philippines and observations of the delegates raise a number of issues and concerns related to agrarian reform and rural development which can be summarised as follows:

- *The speed and political credibility of programme implementation are essential to the success of a national land reform programme.* A slow-paced implementation renders a programme less effective since it gives rise to bureaucratic inertia; provides room for legal disputes, lobbying by landowners for exemption from the programme, rent-seeking activities by elite groups for the resources made available to the programme; and leads to dwindling financial support from the political regime as the prime 'trigger' (e.g., rural unrest) for the programme recedes.
- *A long-drawn implementation breeds an atmosphere of uncertainty,* which not only discourages the flow of private investments into agriculture but also encourages non-planting and premature conversion of agricultural lands into non-agricultural uses.
- *Land reform programmes constraining the scope of tenure choice tend to defeat the objective of promoting efficient resource allocation in rural areas.* Because they tend to constrain upward social mobility, they also hurt the poorest of the rural poor—the landless farm workers—whose poverty frequently serves as justification for land reform legislation.
- *The technical capacity and institutional discipline of bureaucracies tasked to implement land reform programmes should not be overlooked in the programme design.* A relatively well-disciplined bureaucracy, together with the availability of an accurate set of data on landownership and tenure relations, should be in place if land reform is to be a success.
- *The political acceptability and legitimacy of a redistribution programme have to be ensured.* Land reform programmes are seldom irreversible. If the programme has a narrow political base and if the wide spectrum of political opinion does not perceive the programme as both necessary and the most effective way of achieving the programme's explicit goals, it is bound to fail.
- *The respective roles of the private and public sectors have to be clearly defined.* Agrarian reform programmes founded on the assumption that only the public sector is capable of determining beneficiary needs, delivering services, and maintaining communal facilities and support services are bound to fail. With their roles clearly defined, non-government organisations are effective conduits for the delivery of essential services to programme beneficiaries.
- *Successful programmes tend to have simple, transparent, and uniformly enforceable rules of participation.* Deliberately interventionist and discretionary measures are inferior to those providing mechanisms for inducing institutional and organisational change.
- *Centralised decision-making and mistrust of market forces to achieve land redistribution objectives slow down land acquisition and distribution.* Better performance is achieved if market forces are allowed to function efficiently, provided there is room for government intervention or guidance to ensure that certain social objectives are achieved.

- *Land reform should be seen as only one element of a comprehensive strategy for economic and social development.* No land reform programme can be effective in achieving its goals unless the economic and political environment is conducive to sustained economic growth and development.
- *The need for common understanding between stakeholders over their claims to land is crucial for a peaceful and lasting solution to land conflicts.* The Philippines experience clearly demonstrates that National Land Use Policy is crucial in resolving land conflicts between multiple stakeholders. Government must have a national framework to analyse the usage of land and other common property resources and ensure that the rights of marginalised sectors depending on these resources are respected.
- *If one truly wants to make a programme a 'centrepiece programme' of government, it should receive the full and unqualified political support from the Government.*
- *Spirit of transparency and openness* should pervade in order to foster a collaborative atmosphere that one needs in order to ensure the effective complementation of work of the various agencies involved in the implementation of their common programme.
- *The need and scope for modest redistributive land reforms and politically expedient tenancy reforms* backed by strategic support from the civil society and other private sector stakeholders still remain and are expected to provide significant poverty reduction benefits. The agrarian reform typology being suggested here is the 'new wave' reform. In contrast to the classic/conventional redistributive land reform system, the 'new wave' reform should be far more comprehensive, including reforms of land tenure and property rights, market assisted or negotiated and backed by the provisions of adequate support and extension services to the reform beneficiaries. Reforms to be successful should ensure the following:
  - sensitive to preserving customary cultural practices
  - aware of needs of women and indigenous groups requiring changes in inheritance laws
  - ensuring economic size of land holdings, preventing fragmentation, through changes in inheritance laws/other measures ensuring the rights of tillers
  - re-distribution of government and surplus lands
  - building alliances with civil society and other stakeholders, backed by political will and commitment
  - While focusing on agrarian reforms, other issues such as market access, WTO, decentralisation, local governance should also receive priority attention.

### **Further Issues Highlighted**

- ♦ Lack of coordination among ministries which makes agrarian reform initiatives difficult
- ♦ Loss of competitiveness in agriculture and niche market in international trade
- ♦ Increased profitability in agriculture, infrastructure development
- ♦ Development of the non-farm sector
- ♦ Importance of community based poverty monitoring system



- ♦ Needs for soft loans and credit programmes
- ♦ Needs commitment and integrity of governments
- ♦ Need to deal with emerging issues like capital investments to develop fallow land, linking up farms to markets and the entire supply chain approach
- ♦ Need for support services
- ♦ Need to consider infrastructure, health, education to assess overall impact of agrarian reform on poverty
- ♦ Food security and the issue of value chain of farmers should be integrated into the land reform issue
- ♦ Promises are not enough, action is needed.

## Roundtable Discussion on Resetting the Role of CIRDAP

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), on the occasion of its 28th Founding Anniversary, organised a 'Round-table Discussion on Resetting CIRDAP in the New Global Context' at its auditorium on 5 July 2007, with a view to redefining its new and extended role as a regional organisation, where H.E. Mohammed Anwarul Iqbal, honourable Adviser of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MLGRD&C) of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. Academicians, rural development practitioners, development professionals, senior government functionaries and diplomats of the Asia-Pacific region took part in the half day roundtable discussion. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP.



*28<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary programme.*

Setting the tone of discussion at the Roundtable, the Chief Guest reiterated that Bangladesh being the host country of CIRDAP, the MLGRD&C maintains a very close relationship with the Centre and tries to accord the necessary support and facilities as per as practicable. In this respect he notified the audience that the Government of Bangladesh will provide financial support of US\$2.2 million to construct an International Conference Centre (ICC) with all modern facilities at the premises of 'Chameli House', Headquarters of CIRDAP in Dhaka for which he laid the foundation. The ICC is expected to be the venue for the proposed Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in 2009. He lauded the role played by the Centre since its inception as a prime regional organisation with a huge network in the field of rural development and expected a bigger role in the future to



come in the changed context of globalisation. In this respect he emphasised three issues to take into consideration: (i) the new and extended role of CIRDAP as a regional organisation; (ii) the significant changes, both in the country context of CMCs and the international context, which need to be taken into account, in resetting CIRDAP; and (iii) the necessity to expand CIRDAP membership to include countries which were in the original list, but did not join at the time of CIRDAP's establishment.

In the paper, DG, CIRDAP highlighted the emerging policy issues and concerns in the arena of rural development and poverty alleviation and identified the gaps in policies and practices in this field.

The emerging policy-level issues and concerns, he explained, are:

- Non-income dimensions of poverty such as access to education, preventive health care, etc.
- Mismatch between qualitative and quantitative dimensions in implementation of schemes.
- Market and non-market considerations - resource distribution in favour of the poor and empowering them and democratisation of markets.
- Participation and empowerment with a standard menu like economic growth, human development and social safety nets.

Dr. Paudyal also showed some gaps in policies and practices that need to be tackled:

- Access of the poor to knowledge and their organised capacity to deal with markets.
- Control of productive assets by the poor and re-designing budgetary and other public policies to reach resources to the poor.
- Development of appropriate technology for the enhancement of productive capability of the poor.

He stated that, in the changing global and regional context, some key roles of CIRDAP can be identified as follows: (i) to continue its role as a servicing institution for CMCs in the area of rural development and poverty alleviation; (ii) to take up follow-up actions of ICARRD, especially in the areas of agrarian reforms, food security, environmental degradation, climate change and impact on farming communities; (iii) to analyse the impact of trade-related issues on rural communities and help countries devise strategies to cope with adverse impacts of trade; (iv) to play a bridging role between regional associations such as SAARC, ASEAN and ECO; (v) to include Japan, China, Republic of Korea and Australia, and other Pacific countries, who attended the 1978 Meeting on CIRDAP, as members; and (vi) to work with national and regional NGOs, making them work for the benefit of countries and play an advocacy role.



*Participants at the Roundtable Discussion.*



The participants actively took part in the Roundtable Discussion and delivered their suggestions and recommendations to help CIRDAP reset its position in the new global context. Their suggestions and recommendations are given below:

- CIRDAP should concentrate on decentralisation in the CMCs. For decentralisation, local-level planning is necessary.
- It is recommended that CIRDAP convince member country governments to strengthen local government. CIRDAP is also requested to accelerate rural development activities at the union level.
- CIRDAP should focus on human resource development. For this, institutional help, training, and productive employment are mandatory. Human resources have to be productive.
- CIRDAP has been recommended to look for common programmes for the youth in all the member countries. CIRDAP can coordinate all these youth programmes.
- CIRDAP should address the issue of adolescents and child labour.
- It is also suggested that CIRDAP should focus on institutions of higher education, the rural-urban continuum, and new industrial relations.
- CIRDAP should shift its focus to increasing productivity in agriculture, fish production, integrated fishery and paddy cultivation, land distribution, community development, water, environment, and renewable energy issues.
- CIRDAP has been urged to coordinate rural development projects with development partners, especially for infrastructural projects.
- CIRDAP should work for sustainable development which includes not only economic growth, but social development and protection of the environment. Institutional structures must be inclusive, particularly at the local level.
- IRD should be redefined. For this, a holistic approach is needed.
- CIRDAP should focus on co-operatives and play a bridging role between co-operatives and marketing.
- CIRDAP is urged for developing a role model for rural development. Analysing the vision, mission, strategy and success story in each member country, CIRDAP can develop this.
- It is suggested that the challenge for CIRDAP is to address the diversity amongst member countries and find the unity in this diversity. It should also produce some benchmark data for the member countries for sustainable development.
- CIRDAP is suggested to involve policy-making bodies in the process of formulating ideas and strategies which will strengthen rural development in the member countries.
- CIRDAP member countries are suggested to own CIRDAP and address its financial constraints.
- Research activities of CIRDAP should be based on needs assessment of its member countries.
- CIRDAP is strongly recommended to be linked with other regional organisations- SAARC, AARDO, ICIMOD.
- Emphasis is put on the networking role of CIRDAP. Most of the Link Institutions working separately in the member countries should be coordinated by CIRDAP. In Bangladesh, CIRDAP should take advantage of BARD.
- Some roles for CIRDAP have been suggested in the new global context:
  - It should play a bridging role between communities; will disseminate knowledge, and work on networking
  - It should be a catalyst for change
  - It should prioritise livelihood and reduction in inequality.



- CIRDAP should strengthen its database, update its website, and go for automation of its library. It should also undertake one action research project in each country. It should expand its membership.
- CIRDAP should undertake two-three pilot projects each year as role models e.g. on local governance and local-level planning. Rural facilities should be increased to reduce rural-urban migration.
- CIRDAP is suggested to be an excellent performer in its core areas.
- CIRDAP management is urged to be dynamic and give proper logistic support to the professionals. If necessary, Operations Manual and the CIRDAP Agreement can be revised.

## **Rural Non-Farm Sector - Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation: Road Map for Bangladesh**

CIRDAP, along with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Rural Development Academy (RDA) and Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has been selected for preparation of the roadmap for the rural non-farm sector as part of the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and implementation of MDGs for the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RD CD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MLGRD&C), Government of Bangladesh.

This is an important activity which will give significant inputs to policy formulation for the rural non-farm sector in Bangladesh. Development of this sector is also a key element in rural development of the country. It is hoped that the exercise will give valuable insights on the rural non-farm sector which will be of use to other CIRDAP countries.

A workshop of the organisations involved in implementation of the RNF activities in Bangladesh was convened on 15 November 2007 at RD CD Conference room of MLGRD&C, Bangladesh Secretariat as per decision of the Working Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2007. The meeting was organised to gather additional information from the relevant agencies as to their input and plans for the Road Map being prepared by CIRDAP along with BARD and RDA. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy Chief of RD CD while Dr. Nasreen Khundker acted as a moderator.

The agendas of the workshop were as follows:

- a. identification of projects under RNF activities implemented/ to be implemented by the organisations;
- b. discussion of detailed objectives and goals of each project;
- c. future plans of the organisations in terms of RNF activities; and
- d. availability of data.

## **Shanghai Programme for Development Evaluation Training & CoP-MfDR Plan**

The Director General Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Programme Officer, Research, and delegates from CIRDAP countries, Afghanistan and India, Mr. Abdul Rahim Daud, Mr. Sri Ram Taranikanti, respectively, have participated in the Shanghai International Programme for Development Evaluation Training and CoP-MfDR Annual Planning on 22 October-2 November 2007 at Shanghai National Accounting Institute, Shanghai, China. The Ministry of Finance of China, the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Finance and Development Centre sponsored the training programme and the CoP-MfDR annual meeting.



The main focus of the face-to-face event was on the emerging global demand for Monitoring & Evaluation in promoting the results-based public management, i.e., Managing for Development Results (MfDR). The training course was basically an expanded version of the online discussions in the Community of Practice-MfDR on the featured book, 'A Handbook for Development Practitioners. Ten Steps to a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System,' where the co-author, Mr. Ray Rist lectured and facilitated the group workshops deepening the participants knowledge on M&E. The workshops were based on actual projects in Shanghai making the training an experience of combined theories and practice of a results-based M&E in development as manifested from the inspiring field visits.

During the annual meeting, the organisers presented the Plan for 2008 (The Road to the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-3)). The structure of the forum would be nine roundtables and three sessions for the Ministerial Segment with a market place event similar with the one held in Hanoi. It is worth mentioning to say that the need for focus was emphasised.

#### *Expected MfDR contributions*

- Partner countries commit to establish results-oriented reporting and assessment frameworks.
- Partner-countries and donors jointly commit to strengthen country capacities and demand for results-based management.
- Partner-countries and donors commit to undertake mutual assessment of progress in implementing agreed commitments on aid effectiveness.
- Commitment to reforming and simplifying donor policies and procedures.

CIRDAP is apparently viewed as a potential partner at the regional level that could build the sectoral CoP-MfDR in rural development. However, as an institution, CIRDAP has to manifest a substantive role in terms of policy advocacy in improving planning, budgeting and implementation by which M&E mechanisms are embedded as a practice. Any worthwhile venture is encouraged via online discussions and face-to-face events, if required.



*Group photograph of MfDR Meeting in Shanghai, China.*



Ms. Tuzon presented a paper building on the assumption that a results-based M&E of rural development emanating from the lowest level of CIRDAP-country's administrative unit (community or village level) along with other stakeholders could improve planning and budgeting for where results should happen. The central message is to advocate for outcomes and impacts moving away from just inputs and outputs.

In any M&E, it is important to look at the theory of change and the logical framework that goes with it. Accordingly, these are the most critical elements that should be found in the terms of reference (ToR) in any monitoring and/or evaluation plan. Without these, everything is rendered as useless exercise. Further, two video conferences were held during the training: first, linking between Washington and Shanghai for the discussion on the field study of a multi-cities project and second, between Carleton University (Ottawa) and Shanghai via WB-Global Development Learning Network for the lecture on using logic framework in M&E.

It was viewed that online discussions are rather far better in facilitating and sustaining policy dialogues, i.e., on rural development in the case of CIRDAP. Electronic discussions appear to be the most recently adopted mechanism to solicit public opinion and consensus building in different institutions or stakeholders across the globe. IT has literally changed the way people communicate in real time in different location. 'The Centre is where you stand'.

To enhance the network of CIRDAP, the CoP-MfDR is a fertile ground for online policy discussions relevant in building the M&E mechanisms, policy dialogues on how the mandated agencies (CIRDAP ministries, departments and link institutions) could be strengthened (capacity building) and improve effectiveness by becoming transparent and accountable enablers of change. Similar set-up within the CoP-MfDR could be proposed for the sector of rural development using the network of CIRDAP.

## **Researchers' Meeting on Strategic and institutional Perspective of CIRDAP: Revisiting Its Role in the Changing Context**

CIRDAP organised a Researchers' Meeting on Strategic and Institutional Perspective of CIRDAP: Revisiting Its Role in the Changing Context on 12-13 November 2007 at CIRDAP Auditorium, in line with the proposed CIRDAP evaluation, recommended by the policy-making bodies of CIRDAP to conduct the country-studies on rural development in the CMCs as one of the major inputs in figuring out the new commitments in rural development and poverty alleviation in the region.

CIRDAP through its Research Division with Planning, Resource and Mobilisation Unit, successfully held the Researchers' Meeting. Mr. Mohammed Anwarul Iqbal, Adviser for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Bangladesh, inaugurated it. The Director General, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal gave a brief orientation on the meeting that was attended by nine country-nominated, researcher-RD experts. The other CMCs who failed to attend the Meeting, were also briefed on the study. Dr. S. Narayan, Consultant, and Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Director, Research of CIRDAP, co-facilitated the meeting.

### **Highlights of Meeting**

The consultant gave a thorough historical background on rural development across the globe with special focus in the Asia-Pacific region. He likewise gave an update on the MDGs. After a brief presentation on the hierarchy of the objectives underlying the proposed country studies, the researchers suggested a title of the country studies, i.e., 'Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIRDAP Member-Countries: Future Opportunities for CIRDAP.'





*Country researchers along with Chief Guest and the Chairperson at the inaugural function.*

The researchers were grouped into two: South Asia and South-East Asia groups wherein they have a rapid deliberation on indicators that they agreed as reflective of rural development. The two groups presented their outputs wherein there were active exchanges of views on the selected indicators.

The researchers suggested categorising the list of indicators into key result areas and their sub-indicators as follows:

- i. Rural Income, Agricultural Productivity & Infrastructure Support
- ii. Basic Social Services: Nutrition, Health & Education
- iii. Access to land/Landholding Patterns and Agrarian Reform
- iv. Social Capital Development: Civil Society/NGOs, Cooperatives, Gender & Development
- v. Environment and Ecological Integrity

Some of the common issues and policy thrusts that were identified by the researchers were the following:

- a. Extent of private sector participation
- b. Extent of market liberalisation
- c. Conflict and disaster management, reconstruction and rehabilitation processes

All these would be incorporated in the country reports reviewing the RD policies and programmes in member countries and the changed context of RD in these countries.

The meeting was concluded with the challenge that the above-cited indicators could facilitate the establishment of a database of 14 CIRDAP countries for tracking, monitoring, evaluation and planning purposes on RD and PA. The results of the research would help in identifying the future opportunities for CIRDAP to play a more effective role in rural development of its member countries.



## **Brainstorming on CIRDAP E-Forum: Results-Based M&E of Rural Development**

In view of the growing demand for the fulfilment of the Paris Declaration that promotes development partnership and mutual accountability between and among development stakeholders at different levels in different countries; results-based management became a required performance tool. Taking inspirations from the best practices of some countries such as China, Malaysia, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka and others in introducing the principles of Managing for Development Results, i.e., planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, CIRDAP aims at advocating for the same in its member countries but with special focus on rural development sector.

Part of the evolving results-based management approach is the promotion of continuing learning processes from which stakeholders adopt dynamic policy dialogues. This is supported and facilitated through ICT. Closing the gaps on resources (time, money, and space) to exchange views, common development issues and concerns, sharing of relevant knowledge on effective and efficient institutional mechanisms, electronic forums became a necessity for many governments, civil societies, private sector and multi-lateral agencies.

With this background, CIRDAP through its Divisions, Research (RD) and Information & Communications (ICD), organised a Brainstorming Session on CIRDAP E-Forum: Results-Based M&E of Rural Development in CIRDAP Member Countries on 6 December 2007 at CIRDAP Auditorium. It was participated by a group of selected government (Ministry of Finance, Finance Division, [Budget], Economic Adviser's Wing, and BARD), and non-government organisations (BRAC, PKSF, ASA, Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women [SFDW], Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programme [BCCP], Environment & Social Development Organisation-Advocacy Institute of Washington, DC., USA, and the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre).

Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon presented the concept note explaining the background and objectives of the proposed CIRDAP E-Forum. She likewise explained the importance of results-based M&E of rural development and how it could facilitate in developing a comprehensive knowledge and review mechanisms in CIRDAP countries. Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director of ICD, briefly explained the proposed structure of the E-Forum while Mr. Rafe, Computer Programmer and Zeenat Ahmed, Asst. Info-Communication Officer, demonstrated the mechanics of running the online discussions.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG CIRDAP, chaired the discussions, and he also emphasised the significance of the various roles of institutions in addressing the varying needs in rural development. He encouraged the participants to share their views on the presented concept. Following were some of the major comments:

Mr. Arastoo Khan, Joint Secretary (Budget), Finance Division, explained the current initiative of the government to link resources to budget and planning processes anchored from the Bangladesh Planning document (Medium Term Budget Framework). He equally advocated for the results-based M&E to be adopted by the line ministries as spearheaded by the IMED and encouraged them to conduct enclave audit using relevant indicators to measure performance.

Mr. Fazlul Kader, DGM of PKSF, remarked that while M&E have been there a long time but these were not as seriously thought and advocated the way they are now addressed. He also expressed its importance in coping with the perennial suspicions against microfinance institutions because of the gap in terms of proper public information and the



admittedly lack of a results-based M&E mechanisms in the country for its development initiatives. He opined that CIRDAP could play a role influencing institutions to look at their potential contributions and incentives in delivering results beyond programme outputs. The Programme Director of ASA, Mr. Md. Ataur Rahman added that resource development as part of rural development as an important agenda that should encourage high visibility of support at the local level. He emphasised the need to fully understand how people could be involved in an IRD framework.

Dr. Hossain Shahriar, closely working with the Environment and Social Development Organisation, said the significance of investigating the impacts of the previous investments made in rural development for the last three decades. He mentioned the enduring problem of coordination among development agencies including the need to improve attitudes depicting collective than individual interests, access to information and the interest to share knowledge. Further, he expressed that CIRDAP should be able to take leadership role in re-defining rural development and the opportunity to build network wherein individuals and institutions, with diverse interests and willingness to contribute, should go to the platform, e.g., E-Forum.

Dr. Nazrul Haque, Assistant Director of BCCP, shared his thoughts on how to handle and sustain interests of participants on the online discussions. He also encouraged linking websites with a limit to those institutions which could contribute in terms of knowledge sharing. All of the participants manifested support to the concept and made a challenge to CIRDAP for the incentives of why individuals and institutions should get involved.

DG CIRDAP gave his concluding impressions, emphasising the growing demand for sharing the best results in rural development, not just the usual reporting but rather towards the potential of having them scaled up in different countries of CIRDAP, beginning within its host country, Bangladesh. He also explained the potential rewards in joining the E-Forum by being able to take part in the generation of relevant information that is useful in local-level accountability and governance as a wide theme. Highlighted also was the greater challenge of the capacity to generate local funds for the initiative (online forum). He then assured the participants that the concept will be finalised with a forward-looking stance of facilitating a national-level conference to present the synthesis of the envisioned electronic discussions.

## **New Projects Initiated**

### ***Country Focus Studies on 'An Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIRDAP Member Countries: Future Opportunities'***

As per decision of the CIRDAP policy bodies meeting in Manila, Philippines in 2007, a new study titled '*An Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIRDAP Member Countries: Future Opportunities*' was initiated in October 2007 with all 14 CIRDAP countries. The focus study is intended to assist CIRDAP in reformulating its strategies for the next decade.

CIRDAP already appointed a consultant for the project and a researchers' meeting was held on 12-13 November 2007 at CIRDAP HQs. The country studies are expected to be completed by March 2008.



## ***Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and Other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in Four Asian Countries***

CIRDAP has signed an agreement with IFAD to conduct a study on 'Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in Four Asian Countries' with effect from 01 October 2007. The study includes Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines in Asia and the Pacific region. The aim of the study is to look at issues which determine access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor, particularly women and indigenous groups, and to create a database collating and collecting existing information, analysing trends, etc. The objective of the study would thus be to:

- Consolidate knowledge on access to land by the rural poor people in the four selected countries of the region;
- Enhance capacity of the selected member countries to analyse data and review progress on security of tenure and access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor, particularly by women and indigenous populations and other marginalised groups;
- Identify constraints and opportunities for future enhancing access to land and other natural resources;
- Hold national and regional dialogues among various stakeholders such as the governments, civil societies, farmers associations, International Land Coalition (ILC) member organisations etc. on issues relating to land; and
- Promote participatory approach based on economic, social and cultural rights as well as good governance for equitable management of land and other natural resources within the legal framework of the participating countries.

The project will be implemented with FAO, ILC member organisations as partners. As an initial take-off, a planning workshop of the researchers from the participating countries is to be held in January 2008. The project is expected to be completed by September 2009. National workshop will be organised in each participating country to disseminate the findings of the research and a Regional Dialogue will also be held in 2008.

## **Other Activity**

### **Internship**

Research Division organised an internship last year. Mr. A.K. Ifthekharul Haque, a student of Masters in Asian Studies at Lund University, Sweden, was selected as an intern.

The internship was designed to get help in day-to-day divisional activities, particularly in collecting data, information, news clips and write-ups on different purposes. The intern also assisted Research Director in writing project proposals.



## *Pilot Projects*

Strengthening Capacities of the Organisation  
of the Poor: Experiences in Asia  
Capacity Development for Building Self-help Groups  
Capacity Building of People's Organisations  
under Model Villages in Rural Development  
Coordination of Good Practices of IRD  
Projects of Bangladesh

### **Focused Areas**

- Sustainability of the rural poor organisations
- Capacity building of the rural poor
- Institutional capacity building
- Coordination of IRD projects
- Collaboration with other regional organisations



*Professor Yoshihiro Kaida (L), Mr. Safar Raj Hossain (2 L) H. E. Mr. Anwarul Iqbal (C),  
Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam (R), H.E. Masayuki Inoue (2 R) and Dr. Paudyal.*



## Pilot Projects Division

As 'sustainability of the rural poor and their organisations' has been selected for the 2007 focus of Pilot Projects Division (PPD) to mainstream itself with the changing perspective in development, the activities of the division during the year can be seen reflecting capacity-building towards sustainability.

It takes efforts in building the capacities of the rural poor and their organisations for a sustainable development. To promote community participation in the different activities such as rural income and employment generation; credit and marketing through formal and informal organisations; natural resource management; conflict resolutions etc. required awareness building in the first place. Therefore, awareness building in the form of workshop/seminar was given priority before initiating any capacity building activities. After the target groups aware of their lacking and needs and after identification of the needs is done, capacity building trainings are conducted.

Pilot projects are field-level projects and the beneficiaries are the rural poor communities. Since the local communities are of experienced people with their own environment, PPD values their experiences and utilises participatory approach for the successful implementation of its projects. During the implementation process, PPD also utilises the assistance from the Link Institutions and Contact Ministries in the member countries, whenever and wherever appropriate, to strengthen ties with the CLIs and CCMs.

The activities of PPD during 2007 are as follows:

### Strengthening Capacities of Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia

Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia (SCOPE) project is funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and it has been implemented jointly by PPD and Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) since June 2004. ANGOC is an NGO based in the Philippines and it has been collaborating with PPD since for implementation of first



*SCOPE Regional Workshop on RPO sustainability.*





*Interaction with project beneficiaries.*

phase of SCOPE. The countries covered under SCOPE project are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, and the Philippines. Responsibilities were divided country-wise-ANGOC takes responsibility for Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines while CIRDAP takes care of Bangladesh and India.

The original completion date of SCOPE was May 2007. With activities such as 'sustainability plan' added during its third Steering Committee (SC) meeting held in June 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand, SCOPE had to request six-month no-cost extension in November 2006, which was granted by its fund supporter, IFAD, in February 2007. With six-month no-cost extension approved, completion date of SCOPE activities becomes 30 November 2007 and official closing date of the project becomes 31 March 2008. All the activities of SCOPE have been completed in November 2007 and the completion report including financial report is under preparation for submission to IFAD.

The overall goal of SCOPE project is to strengthen the capacity of the rural poor and their organisations. Project development goal is to enable the rural poor to form strong coalitions and federations. The objective of the project is to increase the capacity of IFAD and its partners to strengthen rural poor organisations/coalitions/federations, and, to promote up-scaling and policy linkages of community-based organisations (CBOs) through their clusters and federations. During the course of implementation, SCOPE, with cooperation of respective country portfolio managers (CPMs) from IFAD, selected one IFAD funded project from each participating countries.

In-country capacity assessment of the selected projects in the five countries was conducted to identify the needs for sustainability of the project beneficiaries and their organisations. Based on the findings of the assessment reports, Project Directors (PDs) of the selected projects were asked to submit proposal to SCOPE for small grant which was around twenty thousand US dollars. The objective of SCOPE grant to selected projects was to conduct capacity building activities for the project staff and beneficiaries, with long-term vision for sustainability. The activities carried out under SCOPE Grant project are monitored to evaluate the impacts on the objectives.

Of the two countries responsible by CIRDAP, PD of the selected project from India opted to implement the activities recommended by the assessment consultant, with the fund from selected IFAD project itself. For Bangladesh, Sunamganj Community Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) was selected to implement the objective of SCOPE. With the help of CLI Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD),



capacity-building needs of the project staff and beneficiaries were identified. By providing SCBRMP a small grant from SCOPE, capacity building trainings for the project staff and beneficiaries were conducted with the long-term vision for sustainability.

A total of 15 courses under the four thematic areas, such as (a) Development Human Resource at Grassroots Level, (b) Natural Resource Management, (c) Training and Research Skill Development, and (d) Participatory Technology Extension were organised for SCBRMP starting from July 2006. Out of 15 courses World Fish organised 3 courses on 'Natural Resource Management' and BARD organised the remaining 12 courses. All the trainings conducted were aiming at the skill/capacity development of the project staff and community development facilitators (CDFs). Basic courses were completed in May 2007 and Refreshers' courses were completed in August 2007.

Monitoring of the SCOPE grant activities was conducted twice by Programme Officer and Pilot Project Associate. First monitoring was done in last week of April 2007. Second (Final) monitoring was conducted with assistance from BARD during last week of August 2007. Monitoring was conducted with an overall objective to evaluate whether the trainings imparted met the overall goal of SCOPE to help sustain the rural poor organisations formed under the project. The specific objectives of the monitoring were to: (a) measure appropriateness and the adequacy of the training programmes conducted under Scope grant; (b) measure contribution of training in achieving SCOPE objectives of strengthening institutional capacity of SCBRMP; and (c) see results of training at the level of project performance.

Findings from monitoring and evaluation indicate positive impact of the training courses. Awareness and knowledge level of IFAD staff and project beneficiaries on sustainability of rural poor organisations (RPOs) has increased. In the context of application of the lessons learned from the courses, it has been viewed by the supervisors of the participants/CDFs that after training, the trained CDFs as well as beneficiaries had the opportunity to utilise the knowledge and skill they acquired. It was observed that the trained CDFs could apply the knowledge and skills attained from the training in their day-to-day performance, and they also demonstrated better performance than the non-trained CDFs.

SCOPE had its Regional Workshop from 17 to 18 September and Final Steering Committee Meeting on 19 September 2007. Regional Workshop was focused on 'strategies for sustainability of the organisations of the rural poor (RPOs)' aiming to strengthen them so that they will continue to survive and develop further even after the withdrawal of donors and stakeholders. Participants had in-depth discussion in groups on sustainability issues. Project Directors of the five selected IFAD Projects and all other participants had active and thorough group discussions in fine-tuning the strategies for the sustainability of the RPOs which were developed during the face-to-face meeting of the five IFAD Project Directors and SCOPE which was held in February 2007 in the Philippines.

During implementation of SCOPE project from June 2004 to November 2007, four knowledge generation products focused on RPO sustainability, namely, a) IFAD's Experience in Building and Strengthening RPOs in Asia; b) CSO Experiences in Strengthening RPOs in Asia; c) Tools, Insights and Practices (TIPS) on Strengthening RPOs in Asia; and d) Insights and Lessons: SCOPE Experience have been published and distributed by ANGOC.



## Capacity Development for Building Self-help Groups

'Capacity Development for Building Self-Help Groups' is a project proposed to SCOPE by the Project Director of the Sunamganj Community Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) for SCOPE Grant.

SCBRMP was the project identified by Country Portfolio Manager of Bangladesh and SCOPE consultant for the capacity building intervention of SCOPE project. Capacity building need assessment of SCBRMP project staff and beneficiaries was conducted by BARD, the CLI in Bangladesh, during March 2005. Based on findings of the assessment, PD of SCBRMP prioritised the trainings required and proposed 'Capacity Development for Building Self-Help Groups' project. Criteria and guidelines for SCOPE Grant were discussed among PDs and SCOPE Steering Committee members in November 2005. After formal agreement, SCOPE disbursed the fund through CIRDAP at the end of March 2006. For implementation of the activities under SCOPE grant, SCBRMP utilises the services of BARD, World Fish and its own human resources.

Though the trainings were supposed to be started in June 2006 and completed by December 2006 due to unforeseen circumstances they could begin only in July 2006 and completed in August 2007. A total of 15 courses (including exposure visit to another SCOPE Grant project in Indonesia - PIDRA) with different natures of trainings were conducted under 5 broader subjects, and around 553 persons including group mobilisation staffs, activists and group leaders attended the trainings. Besides, a few senior level technical staffs were also attended some trainings as observers.

Some of the trainings were held at BARD, Comilla and some were arranged at Sunamganj. With in-house training, some visits and field based exercises, such as Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) practices, were also arranged.

The external exposure trip to PIDRA in Indonesia was done by a two-member team to gain ideas on self-sustained institution of grassroots. Project Director of SCBRMP and the Training Coordinator were participated in that exposure visit. In-country field level training-cum-exposure visit to Comprehensive Village Development Project in Comilla, Bangladesh was arranged for the CDFs.

From the monitoring of the activities of this small grant project, it was observed that capacity building trainings did have immense effect for the objective envisioned. Impact of the training at the organisational level showed that acceptance of the CDF by the beneficiaries and by the officials of SCBRMP increases significantly. The speed of CO and Beel Users Group (BUG) activities like holding meeting, accumulation of savings, repayment of credit, mitigation of conflict, etc. has increased and improved. The beneficiaries have come to understand the importance of participatory decision making and are applying it practically. Training related to the project achieved profound benefit from the gender point of view as the gender issues were mainstreamed in the entire courses. The understanding on the role of CDFs has become clearer, and they also prove their capability through the transfer of their knowledge and experiences successfully to the leaders and beneficiaries of COs and BUGs. In BUGs, females are playing significant roles as a member of management body as well as general members. Females were also found involved in Beel management, conflict resolution, and legal aspect of beel. Their role in decision making of the village organisation as well as in their household has been increasing.



## Coordination of Good Practices of Four IRD Projects of Bangladesh

The plan of coordination of good practices of four integrated rural development projects of Bangladesh has initiated with an objective to synergise the good practices of different projects to achieve better outcomes of individual projects. 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 (TC-22), titled, 'Revisiting the Integrated Rural Development (IRD): Bangladesh and Japan'.



*In-house discussion with four selected project directors.*

Four IRD projects under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of the Government of Bangladesh were selected for coordination plan. The four selected projects are: Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund Project (SLGDFFP), Local Development Coordination Programme (LDGP), Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP), and Participatory Rural Development Project (PRDP). (After SLGDFFP has completed, Phase II of that project, 'Local Governance Support Programme - LGSP' has been included in the coordination plan.

Discussion with Project Directors of the four selected projects was held on 18 October 2006 at CIRDAP Headquarters as the very first step of the plan for possible coordination. Former Director General of BARD Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam and IRD Expert of CIRDAP, Professor Yoshihiro Kaida, were present at the discussion together with Project Directors of the four selected projects. Potential areas for coordination were identified during the discussion.

Before proceeding to develop the coordination plan, in order to help the four Project Directors to have better understanding of the objectives and activities of individual projects, the excursion trip to project sites was organised as second step of the coordination plan. The trip was organised by CIRDAP from 9 to 12 February 2007 with the support from JICA through PRDP-2. The excursion trip enabled the Project Directors to clearly see the missing gaps of individual projects and helped them to identify the potential areas for coordination.

From the field visit it was observed that the four selected projects implement their project components focused on the Union, using community approach. Common components of the four projects include integration and coordination; empowerment of development stakeholders, viz., Union Parishad (UP), Nation Building Departments (NBDs), Village Committee (VC) and local NGOs; and microinfrastructure build-up of common community interest.



A national seminar on 'Coordination of Good Practices of Selected Integrated Rural Development Projects of Bangladesh' was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka on 17 March 2007 as the third step of coordination plan. The seminar was organised by CIRDAP and funded by PRDP-2/JICA. H.E. Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, the Honourable Advisor for Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) of the Government of Bangladesh, inaugurated the seminar. H.E. Mr. Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Safar Raj Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division and Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, were present at the inaugural session as special guests. Policymakers of the concerned rural development, local government and other relevant ministries, agencies and development partners participated in the seminar.

The inaugural session was followed by two business sessions where Mr. Safar Raj Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division and Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, were presided over as chairpersons for Business Sessions I and II respectively. Director General, CIRDAP presented the keynote paper based on Professor Kaida's paper presented at TC-22, which highlighted the salient features of four selected IRD projects. The paper suggested that several complementary activities of the projects could be synergised through a proper coordination mechanism, to yield the most efficient result. Heads of the Institutions under MoLGRD&C facilitated the discussions. IRD Expert of CIRDAP summarised the discussions and proposed 'Action Plan' for the coordination. It was suggested during the discussion to form a 'Coordination Committee' involving concerned officials from the Institutions under MoLGRD&C, to explore possible coordination among the four selected projects; to conduct focus studies, and, to come up with more integrated models for Bangladesh in local and rural development.

Coordination Committee was formed as decided during the national seminar. Heads of the concerned Departments assigned one capable representative each from LGD, LGED, BRDB, BARD, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Cooperative Directorate, RDCD, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), National Institute of Local Government (NILG), and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) as agreed during the national seminar. In addition to these officials, Project Directors of LGSP, PRDP-2, LDCP, CVDP; Joint Chief of Rural Institution (R&I), Planning Commission and IRD Expert, CIRDAP are also included as members of the Coordination Committee. PPD organised the First Coordination Committee Meeting at CIRDAP Headquarters on 11 June 2007. At the first CC meeting Plan of Operation for fiscal year 2007-2008 and topics for focus studies were proposed and discussed.

The Second Coordination Committee Meeting was held at CIRDAP on 9 August 2007. During the meeting, focus studies to be conducted were discussed in terms of organisation to conduct the study, and which organisations to be involved in the process. The meeting decided that BARD would take the lead to conduct focus study on 'Enhancing UP structure for strengthening capacity of LG & RD & PA implementation' and NILG would take the lead to conduct focus study on 'Involving CBO, NGO, INGO and civil society in GoB's LG&RD, & PA projects'. Project Directors of the four selected projects made presentations on the progress relating to incorporation of good practices from each other.

PPD has planned to hold the third CC meeting in December 2007, but, unfortunately, has to postpone due to the effect of natural calamities 'Cyclone Sidr' in the project areas. In consultation with the concerned CC members, PPD is planning to organise the remaining CC meetings in first half of 2008 back to back with National Seminar of LGSP, LDCP



and CVDP. Anyhow, PPD is on its way to develop a mechanism for coordination of good practices of IRD projects of the Government of Bangladesh being implemented under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives.

## **Collaboration with FAO (SARD-M Project)**

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations (UN) is implementing numerous projects focusing on sustainable agriculture and rural development and in mountain areas development that is one among its areas of concerns. The specific area CIRDAP looks forward to collaborate with FAO is Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M) Project. Initial contact between CIRDAP and SARD-M began since November 2005. SARD-M has established the contact with CIRDAP to explore possibilities for CIRDAP to act as Regional Focal Point in Asia outside the HKH for SARD-M specifically in the mountain areas of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, and to develop other complementary activities in regards to policies for SARD in mountain areas.

Potential collaboration with SARD-M could be contribution of CIRDAP to the implementation of proposals for concrete follow-up of the activities of SARD-M Project based on the findings of the policy assessments that have been conducted by ICIMOD in the case study countries, namely, Bhutan, China (Sichuan), India (Sikkim), and Nepal.

The collaboration plan was proposed to CIRDAP Technical Committee during its twenty-second meeting which was held in Indonesia in 2006, requesting cooperation of member countries concerned, namely, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam. PPD has been trying since then to collaborate with SARD-M. CIRDAP could forward the mountain development projects of Thailand only, to SARD-M and still requires more cooperation from the member countries. The status between CIRDAP and SARD-M is still under communication. Through the communication it is learned that the slot for collaboration is still open.

## **Livelihood Development of the Rural Poor through SHGs**

A proposal on 'Livelihoods Development of the Rural Poor through Formation of Self-Help Groups using Participatory Approach' has been sent to the Government of Thailand through CIRDAP Technical Committee representative from Thailand, and also to contact person of the Link Institution in Lao PDR. The project, if funded, will be running for two years. The Link Institution from Thailand has expressed its willingness to support the project during twenty-third Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP held in Thailand in 2007. PPD is still waiting for the response from Lao PDR.



# Training

## Regional Programmes

- Renewable Energy: Micro-Hydro Power for Rural Development
- Planning, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of RD Projects in Asia-Pacific Region
- Knowledge Management for Decentralisation and Role of Local Government in Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction
- Women Empowerment and Development through Enterprise Promotion
- Advocacy and Facilitation Skills for Officials and Good NGOs

## Focused Areas

- Renewable energy
- Planning, management, monitoring and evaluation
- Knowledge management for local governance
- Women empowerment
- Enterprise promotion
- Advocacy and facilitation skill
- Good governance
- Microfinance institutions
- Decentralisation and infrastructure development

## International Workshop

- Evolving Regional Model for Good Governance in Rural Development

## Training-cum-Exposure Visits

- Indian Officials in Bangladesh to Study Microcredit
- Nepalese Officials in Bangladesh to Study Decentralisation, Local Development and Community-led Development



*Inauguration of a CIRDAP training programme in India.*



## **Training Division**

In keeping with CIRDAP's mission of assisting member countries in developing capacities in the area of empowerment and community participation, a fairly large number of training programmes were organised during the reporting year.

The shift in training modalities from mainly classroom-based training to learner-centred and learning-by-doing approach has increased the relevance of the training in terms of reinforcing theory with practice, particularly in the field of participatory development, women empowerment, local governance, advocacy, renewable energy, etc.

The repeated requests from partners/clients to organise programmes or provide technical services is an indication of their satisfaction in our services and growing confidence in CIRDAP. Outsourcing funds by organising fee levying courses enhanced the limited funds available with Training Division, enabling it to supplement funds for some of its ongoing programmes or tapping available technical support services of other international organisations for CIRDAP training programmes.

A total of nine programmes were organised during 2007 where 161 participants/resource persons/ coordinators, etc. have participated. A brief review of the programmes is given below:

### ***Regional Programmes***

#### **Renewable Energy: Micro-Hydro Power for Rural Development**

Indonesia, 7-12 May 2007

Indonesia has been successful in developing microhydro energy projects. Some microhydro power plants have been built by rural communities on their initiative. These plants are managed by the communities themselves, making its operation less dependent on the government support. Moreover, the project has tremendously supported government efforts to solve electricity problem. Besides enjoying electricity, villages also earn money from the plants by selling electricity to the government.

Indonesia is willing to share its experience with other developing countries. To this end, Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA), Jakarta in association with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC), Jakarta proposed to CIRDAP to organise a training programme on microhydro power to benefit CIRDAP member countries. Hence the programme was organised during 7-12 May 2007 at Bandung and Subang, West Java, Indonesia with funds shared by CIRDAP and NAM-CSSTC.

The training programme was attended by sixteen participants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam apart from resource persons from Indonesia and CIRDAP.

#### **Objective**

The purpose of the training is to provide know-how on microhydro technology and its implementation in the rural community.

The objective of the training was to provide participants with:

- a. basic knowledge on mechanical engineering;
- b. basic knowledge on electrical engineering;



- c. basic knowledge on civil engineering; and
- d. basic knowledge on social preparation and social development plan.

### Opening Ceremony

The training programme was inaugurated by Ms. Esti Andayani, Director, Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of NAM-CSSTC on 7 May 2007 at Bandung, Indonesia.

The Director of NAM-CSSTC in her opening remarks recalled that this training programme is the fourth joint venture between NAM-CSSTC, CIRDAP and SOCSEA. She mentioned that this collaborative programme is a reflection of shared commitment in enhancing the capacity of developing countries through South-South cooperation. In her speech she said that countries possessing river flows and streams have potentials to generate electricity using microhydro technology, a technology that is environmentally sound and friendly. She was confident that this training programme will equip them with practicable knowledge on microhydro power plant and best practices at field level.



*Group photograph of participants with the Chief Guest.*

Director General, CIRDAP, thanked NAM-CSSTC and SOCSEA, CIRDAP's sub-regional centre in Jakarta for considering this idea of renewable energy as the most important component of rural development and making it possible to organise in the beautiful city of Bandung. He declared that the linkage with NAM Centre is helping many member governments to take advantage of aspects of knowledge generation, dissemination and distribution across Asia-Pacific countries on microhydro power potentialities. As this is the fourth NAM-CSSTC-SOCSEA-CIRDAP programme, he wished all delegates to think of the next steps to be followed after the conclusion of the course, for the benefit of the rural areas in Asia and the Pacific.

On the occasion Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, cited various examples of Asian countries particularly the CIRDAP countries, where, in certain circumstances microhydro can be profitable in financial terms, while at others, unprofitable plants can exhibit such strong positive impacts on the lives of poor people



and the environment that they may well justify subsidies. He hoped the linkage with NAM Centre is helping many member governments to take advantage of the shared knowledge for dissemination and practical application across Asia-Pacific countries.

### **Training Sessions**

The training was conducted in a workshop style. Country report relating to problems and potentials of renewable energy development, especially microhydro power, in their respective countries was prepared to be presented during the sessions. Field study to the best practices of the microhydro power plant was part of the programme.

Both the class and field sessions was facilitated by the professional trainers from the People Centred Business and Economic Institute (IBEKA Institution, established in March 1993), who have been successfully implementing appropriate technology for villagers' daily activities through construction of Micro-Hydro Power Plant (MHP). The MHP is not only giving direct benefit to the villagers, but also improving the surrounding environment.

The main topics covered were as follows: Introduction on Micro-Hydro Power-Indonesian Experience; Indonesian NGOs Roles in Disseminating Micro-Hydro; Small Metal Workshop Development; Micro-Hydro for Village Electrification; Village Capacity Building; Micro-Hydro and Possible Semi-Commercial Investment Schemes; Public Private Partnership; Philosophy and Principles of Micro-Hydro Sustainability; Technical Aspect of Micro-Hydro Sustainability; Micro-Hydro and Village Socio-Economic Development; and Institution and Organisation for Micro-Hydro.



*Micro-hydro power plant.*

### **Field Visits**

For the participants, field visits were arranged to RCE Mechanical and Electrical Workshops and Cinta Mekar Power Plant.

### **Valedictory Session**

The concluding session of the training programme was held on 12 May 2007. Director of NAM-CSSTC was the chief guest during the concluding session and awarded certificates.



Dr Sudhakar Rao thanked NAM-CSSTC and Mr. Ischak of SOCSEA and Director General, CIRDAP, for their contribution in making the programme useful.

## **Planning, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects in Asia-Pacific Region, India, 2-11 July 2007**

The programme was organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) at Hyderabad from 2 to 11 July 2007. It was attended by 21 senior and mid-level officials from all CIRDAP member countries.

Many important topics were covered in the programme such as Capacity building methodologies, institutions and national schemes for rural development in India, people's participation in community development (technologies and tools, PRA, PPCM, etc.), participatory evaluation and monitoring methods, wage employment etc.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the programme were:

- a. To build the capacity of rural development policymakers and managers at high and middle levels in CMCs in planning, designing, implementing and monitoring the rural development projects, to meet its objectives laid down in National Development Framework;
- b. To help senior officers in rural development/agriculture/local development/community development ministries to gain practical hands on experience, with tools and techniques of participation in rural development projects;
- c. To visit successful projects (in various rural development projects), interact with institution in various locations; and
- d. Introducing various policies/programmes/projects of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Rural Development and all other policies of 14 CIRDAP member governments in Asia and the Pacific.

### **Opening Ceremony**

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Chinmaya Basu, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRD, in a simple but impressive function, and was attended among others by NIRD faculty and other dignitaries. Mr. Chinmaya Basu, in his welcome speech, appreciated the role of CIRDAP and thanked Dr. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP for facilitating and organising the programme at NIRD. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for CIRDAP-NIRD collaborative programmes in a sustaining manner, year after year.

Dr. Sudhakar Rao spoke on the occasion. He narrated the experiences of CIRDAP in NIRD-CIRDAP-Government of India programmes at various locations and on various subjects to build capacity of CIRDAP countries and conveyed the best wishes of DG, CIRDAP to the delegates.

Dr. B. Chakravarty, Programme Director, Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, NIRD, proposed a vote of thanks.





*Group photograph of the participants.*

### **Field Visits**

The participants were taken to Bangalore and Mysore in Karnataka State of India, where they had visited several projects, interacted with the officials and also visited a 'Model Village', which received a national award. They also had a practical session through a video conferencing between the agriculture experts and farmers. Dr. H S. Ashokanand, Director, State Institute of Rural Development, briefed on the practical application of IT in rural development.

### **Valedictory Session**

The valedictory session was held on 11 July 2007 and concluded with the distribution of certificates. The delegates have spoken on the occasion praising the arrangements, course contents and CIRDAP's efforts etc. and thanked the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for sponsoring the programme and building capacities of the governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Knowledge Management for Decentralisation and Role of Local Government in Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction**

India, 17-26 September 2007

Local government's role in the promotion of watersheds by indigenous methods, bio-farming techniques, soil and water conservation practices, microenterprises (traditional and modern), employment generation projects, solid waste disposal and conversion of waste into compost and energy, and microenergy project like wind energy, solar energy, food processing, value addition to agro-products, market networking, education networking and health net-working etc. are the grey areas requiring adequate thrust in poverty reduction strategies. Decentralisation has done some miracles in this regard, with certain institutional interventions.

In the digital world, the role of IT in good governance, poverty reduction and for effective delivery of services cannot be undermined. The local governments can deliver better services in education, health, protected water supply, sanitation, roads, communications,



public distribution system, power and other basic civic services on a demand driven basis. The science and technology intervention in microprojects for poverty reduction and delivery of services are of more significance. Others include human rights, local level leadership building, etc. where local governments have to be involved.

With a view to involving the local governments in various rural development and poverty reduction activities in CIRDAP countries, the programme was organised by CIRDAP with financial assistance of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and jointly coordinated by CIRDAP and National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, India.

The training programme was held at the North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC) of the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) at Guwahti, India from 17 September to 26 September 2007 and attended by 23 participants.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the programme were set as follows:

- To share knowledge of local government systems legislations, the gaps, the actions needed and innovative methods at cutting-edge level of administration;
- To focus on available best practices in various countries for poverty reduction and delivery of services and new areas that will enhance grassroots delivery of services;
- To discuss on the convergence models and private initiatives for service delivery;
- To highlight Technology interventions, particularly Information Technology for support action in order to enhance capability; and
- To build capacities of officials from Asia and the Pacific.

### **Opening Ceremony**

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Jayanta Madhab, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Assam and former Managing Director of Asian Development Bank, Dr. N. Upadhaya, Director, NERC, and Dr. S.K. Singh, Prof. and Head, CPR, NIRD. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, spoke on the occasion. The Chief Guest spoke on the experiences of various countries on knowledge management in this information age.

The training programme provided a forum to the participating delegates for debate, discuss, share knowledge, experiences and best practices of CIRDAP countries through country presentations. Special presentations were made on people's plan in Kerala, use of space technology for transferring knowledge to farmers, etc. All countries have presented their country papers. A film on women empowerment through local bodies was presented by the delegates from India. Participants were given the opportunity to discuss the Indian model of decentralisation and rural development programmes and other macrolevel interventions such as right to information, employment guarantee, violence against women, etc. Other issues like role of private initiatives, the convergence of local governments, NGOs, and co-operatives to address the problem of poverty reduction vis-à-vis employment generation and effective delivery of services were discussed.

### **Field Visits**

Participants were taken to Shilong where a number of projects were visited. These were watershed based works at Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Barapani; Soil conservation and water harvesting works in watershed areas including drought



proofing measure at ICAR complex; and Dewlica Farm, Umsring (International Centre of Excellence under Horticulture Technology Mission). There were also presentation about horticulture development activities and visit to other farm activities.



*Practical session.*

### **Valedictory Session**

On the occasion of valedictory session, Dr. N. Upadhaya, Dr. S.K. Singh and Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao spoke about the need for greater interaction between CIRDAP member countries.

A vote of thank was proposed by Dr. Haloi, Senior Faculty at NERC.

### **Women Empowerment and Development through Enterprise Promotion Indonesia, 22-31 October 2007**

There has been an increasing awareness that as development takes place; its impact has been different on men and women. There is substantial evidence that women have consistently lost out in the process. The concern for women in development dates back to the international women year in 1975 followed by the UN decade for advancement of women (1976- 85) which noted that development policies have ignored the needs of poor women in third world countries.

Taking account of this issue, the Regional Training Programme on Women Empowerment and Development through Enterprise Promotion was jointly organised by NIRD India, CIRDAP and the Sub-office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) and was held on 22-31 October 2007 at Bali, Indonesia.

Twenty participants, of which 9 were females and 11 males, from 12 CMCs- India, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, took part in the course.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the programme were:

- To facilitate the participants' understanding of gender relations, gender roles and setting a development agenda for women
- To strengthen knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavioural attributes for initiating, planning and implementing projects for self-employment and development



- To equip the participants for counselling prospective women entrepreneurs for successfully launching and managing microenterprises and forming savings and credit groups for women
- To develop their managerial capacities to initiate, manage and sustain delivery system

### **Opening Ceremony**

The programme was inaugurated on 22 October 2007, with the welcoming of the gathering by Mr. Almuktabar, Acting Head of SOCSEA. Dr. P.S. Geethakutty, Professor and Head of Centre for Gender Studies of NIRD and Coordinator of the course gave introductory remarks on the training. This was followed by the felicitation remarks by Dr. P. Purushotham, Professor and Head of the Centre for Self-Employment and Rural Enterprises of NIRD. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, also spoke.

### **Training Sessions**

The training sessions were combined with lectures and orientations, group formation and group exercises, audio-visual presentations, learning through sharing, case studies, exposure and field visits and direct interactions with successful women entrepreneurs. At the first technical session of the training the objectives, methods and session logistics were explained together with the rules and learning logs to be kept by the participants.

A number of pertinent issues were addressed during the various sessions. Some of which were: gender, women empowerment, traditional roles; the concepts of gender sensitivity and gender perspectives: entrepreneurship concepts and need of gender perspectives in development and enterprise promotion: marketing techniques and the approaches for market promotion etc.



*Women entrepreneurs.*



During the course country papers were presented by the delegates, which, in general, provided orientation to the status of women and women development programmes and approaches currently taken up by the CIRDAP countries.

For enabling participatory activities, the participants were divided into three teams/groups. All the three group leaders had responsibilities of collecting the previous day's learning and reporting in the recap session, everyday morning. Throughout the course, the Course Coordinator led these recap sessions to hear and to provide additional clarification needed for the participants on the various topics of discussion.

At the later part of the course, reports of the group tasks were presented by the three groups. The First Group identified the major gender issues among the women entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific Region, cited model cases of best practices for the alleviation of gender issues for women empowerment and brought recommendations. The Second Group's focus was on the issues, best practices and recommendations for alleviating the problems of women entrepreneurs in the context of infrastructure facilities and technology constraints in enterprise management. The Third Group had their recommendations on the alleviation of the problems of women entrepreneurs in the context of marketing and credit. Together the participants developed individual country/organisational action plans on gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and enterprise development. Participants also prepared their individual back home action plans presenting a mixture of short-term and medium-term interventions, strategies and actions that are needed.

### **Field Visits**

On the fifth day, the participants went for a field visit to Bali Mintang and Bintang Merpati' in Denpasar to see the handicraft and wood craft production centres of a women entrepreneur Ms. Razia Jayalakshana and her husband Mr. Jayalakshana. Ms. Razia had taken up the enterprise from her husband's business unit eight years ago as he went a long way for wood craft enterprise and export. Villagers, mainly women are employed to produce handicraft items of curios, toys, bags, cases, vessels etc. with materials of wood, terracotta, canes, fibres, leaves, paper, metal etc. on a mass scale after collecting these from the villages, in her unit. Specialists give finishing touches to the items. Her business dealings are with Italy, Holland, USA etc. and she participates in international trade fairs. The team had a detailed discussion with her about the various aspects of her enterprise running and involvement of women artists in the enterprise chain.

The next day the participants visited a women entrepreneur of handicrafts 'I WAYAN TEBEL-sun mirror' in Ubud area. Ms. Vimita has taken up the business from her father in law and has raised the small business to export level functioning in three years. Sixty employees work in her production centre and she exports the items of sun mirror and wooden handicrafts to Greece, Israel etc. In the afternoon the team could visit and see the Devi Restaurant, a woman-run hotel enterprise in Ubud in the vicinity of paddy terrace, wherein the opportunity of ecotourism is being utilised for livelihood.

### **Valedictory Session**

The valedictory session was held on 3 October 2007 wherein Dr. Sudhakar Rao, Dr. Geethakutty, Dr. Purushotham and Professors and Heads at NIRD and Mr. Vishal Roy, Faculty at State Institute of Rural Development, Sikkim, spoke on the occasion, and Mr. Muhammad Ischak of SOCSEA gave vote of thanks. The participants were awarded with certificates of participation.



## **Advocacy and Facilitation Skills for Officials and Good NGOs**

Nepal, 10-19 December 2007

The training programme was held at Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal during 10-19 December 2007 and was attended by 30 participants from CIRDAP member countries.

The whole programme was designed to ensure participation, using PLA with games, exercises, group discussions, field visits and participatory evaluation and special lectures, etc.

The programme was directed by Dr. Sudhakar Rao along with Dr. N. Upadhaya, Dr. Suman Chandra, Dr. C.S. Singhal, Mr. Muhammad Ischak, SOCSEA, Indonesia and Mr. Bhagirath Singh, LDITA, have been instrumental in managing all the logistic support including field visit arrangements. Mr. Bhagirath Singh acted as the local coordinator of the programme.

### **Opening Ceremony**

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Ram Kumar Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal and attended by Mr. Babu Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, Mr. N. Upadhaya, Director, NIRD-NERC, Guwahati, Dr. Suman Chandra, Professor and Head, Research and Training Division, NIRD, Dr. C.S. Singhal, NIRD and others.

### **Training Sessions**

The sessions were taken by Executive Director, LDITA and Professor from ICIMOD and an expert human rights activist from Nepal. Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones, Director, Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARED), Philippines and Ms. Ma. Elena C. Cabanes, OIC-Assistant Director, BARED, Department of Agrarian Reform, Philippines, have acted as resource persons for the entire programme. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, was present and distributed certificates.

Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones and Ms. Ma. Elena C. Cabanes acted as resource persons contributing richly to conduct the programme on a participatory learning and action mode, incorporating PLA in every session.

Every day the programme had a start with a participatory recap by Ms. Elena and with professional inputs and lectures by Ms. Susana, which were appreciated by all members. A film on child labour produced by Dr. Suman Chandra and the presentation by Dr. Sudhakar Rao on 'Bottom of the Pyramid' were scored high ranks in participatory evaluation exercise done by Ms. Elena and Ms. Susana at the conclusion of the programme.

### **Field Visits**

The participants spent two days at Pokra and intensively studied and interacted with people in two villages, viz., Dhikur Pokhari and Bhipon and Puranchour VDC and presented proposed action plans for these villages. South Asia Vision, an NGO is working in these villages and facilitated field visits.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal has also participated in the field visits at Pokra and made arrangements to visit a farm house in a village fully powered by biogas.





*A field visit by participants.*

### **Valedictory Session**

The group reports were presented through PowerPoint during the Valedictory Session. Also in a workshop mode, the delegates were given group exercises to identify and understand issues for action (general problems and core problems, key actors who could bring policy changes, supportive policies to ensure quality of life and the policy and enforcement gaps) and developing solutions and action (selecting the policy issue, defining the vision, selecting the target group and identifying allies and opponents).

The delegates prepared problem tree analysis, Venn diagram, and were oriented to visioning and social force analysis. The groups also interacted with village development committees.

During the evaluation, the participants have strongly recommended repeating the programme and thanked DG, NIRD and Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi for supporting CIRDAP-NIRD joint programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal presided over the valedictory function and thanked all the concerned for organising such a wonderful course in Nepal, which is also aimed at strengthening the capability of LDITA to undertake international programmes.

### ***International Workshop***

#### **Evolving Regional Model for Good Governance in Rural Development, Pakistan, 26-30 November 2007**

Poverty in most of the Asian countries is alarming as more than half of the world's poor are concentrated in this continent. The earlier strategies of increasing investment on income-generating activities for the poor did not achieve the desired results. Later, the strategies were modified and included investment on human resources. Minimum basic needs and socio-economic infrastructure to accelerate the process have also become a part of the strategies for poverty alleviation.



Majority of the people living in Asian countries are rural, and have no or limited access to most of the basic services as other factors such as illiteracy, malnutrition high rate of growth of population low real wages and unemployment and underemployment add to the concentration of poverty in rural areas. For this reason, rural development and poverty alleviation have become synonymous with National Programme Development in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the context of South Asia where about 450 million poor people live in rural areas.

In this context a joint collaborative workshop on 'Evolving Regional Model for Good Governance in Rural Development' was conducted in Islamabad during 26-30 November 2007. The workshop was jointly conducted by The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Government of Pakistan and CIRDAP.

The workshop was primarily designed to discuss country experiences on- People's Participation; People's Empowerment through Decentralised Institutions; Good Governance for Productivity Enhancement; Good Governance and Rural Infrastructure; Provision of Basic Services at Rural Levels etc.

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- Sharing the experiences and best practices and also identifying common problems impinging on good governance; and
- Evolving a regional model for good governance in Asian countries.

### **Opening Ceremony**

The workshop was held at the Akhter Hamid Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD&MA) in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 26-30 November 2007. H.E. Syed Wajid Air Bukhari, Federal Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan inaugurated the workshop. Among others Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan. Mr. Mohammed Jasim Uddin, Advisor (Asia), Commonwealth Secretariat, London, and Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Director General, AHK NCRD&MA, spoke on the occasion. Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Programme Officer (Training), CIRDAP, proposed vote of thanks.



*A session in progress.*



## **Plenary Sessions**

There were five sessions on five separate themes of the workshop. There were five expert papers and a case study was presented in the workshop. The issues and topics covered in the workshop were, among others: Democratic decentralisation: Devolution of powers, functions and resources; Participation of weaker sections particularly women etc.

Other than plenary sessions there was a field visit to Muree, and the participants and experts were divided into groups to discuss five chosen themes and subsequently came out with recommendations of the workshop.

## ***Training-cum-Exposure Visit***

### **Microcredit in Bangladesh**

16-22 February 2007

The poverty-focused microfinancing for women's groups in Bangladesh has gained a wide recognition internationally. As a pioneer, Bangladesh has a variety of innovations in microcredit and credit plus for the poor, particularly hardcore poor. Many Microcredit Institutions (MFIs) and NGOs with simple, flexible and cost-effective approaches, have large-scale operations with highly standardised products of microcredit. Grameen Bank model has been replicated in many countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Guinea, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sri-Lanka and Zambia. Association for Social Advancement (ASA), BRAC and Proshika etc. which are the biggest NGOs in Bangladesh are known worldwide for microcredit coverage and products.

A training-cum-study visit programme on 'Microcredit in Bangladesh' was arranged by Training Division of CIRDAP for 18 officials from India facilitated by Bankers' Institute for Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow. The programme was held between 16 and 22 February 2007 with government departments, banks, MFIs, NGOs, etc. from all over India participating.

### **Objective**

The overall objective of the programme was to expose them to various MFIs in Bangladesh through field visits and interactions with local resource persons and clients of MFIs.

### **Opening Ceremony**

Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Government of Bangladesh, inaugurated the programme on 16 February 2007 at CIRDAP Auditorium. He mentioned that the rural development efforts have grown multi-fold in Bangladesh and the need for organising women's groups is being given priority through self-employment schemes. He appreciated the efforts of NGOs in Bangladesh for supplementing the governmental efforts at poverty alleviation. He mentioned that the government's initiatives can be seen in its various programmes and measures taken to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, while welcoming the Chief Guest referred to the significance of microcredit in poverty alleviation and termed its emergence as a strong financial sub-sector in Asian countries. Its role is to improve financial access to the small credit hungry players and to help build small assets. In future, microfinance is expected to play a significant role in improving rural financial systems, which are



largely deficient in meeting the demand for capital. He urged the participants to take full advantage of the exposure visit programme by learning and understanding cost-effective monitoring mechanism of credit organisations and various microenterprises, business and social activities of the groups.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP, gave an account of the contents of the programme and recalled the long association of CIRDAP with BIRD. Dr. P.J. Ranjith, BIRD, highlighted the importance of microcredit and MFIs and extended his sincere thanks to CIRDAP. Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Programme Officer (Training), CIRDAP, proposed a vote of thanks.

The programme focused on learning the operational strategies of five major MFIs of Bangladesh on microcredit, viz., Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA, Proshika and PKSF.



*Participants interacting with field-level beneficiaries.*

### **Field Visits**

Participants were taken on field visits to Comilla, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to have first hand knowledge about the mechanism of group transaction, credit, loaning, products, repayment, etc.

Field visits provided an ideal interactive learning environment to the participants to see and observe closely the process of planning, implementation and management of loans by the MFIs and credit delivery and utilisation by groups of women borrowers in Bangladesh villages.

The participants had also briefing sessions on Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA, Proshika, PKSF, etc. and had interactive discussion with various microcredit groups of these NGOs in Comilla, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. Among others they visited BRAC's centres in primary education, health care, legal aid, etc. They discussed the entrepreneurial and business development initiatives taken by the NGOs to promote small business at the local level. The participant's feedback at the conclusion of the programme suggests the usefulness of the study visit on microcredit organisations in Bangladesh.

The programme is 18<sup>th</sup> of such collaboration between CIRDAP and BIRD.



## Nepalese Officials Visit Bangladesh

At the request of the Government of Nepal, the Training Division of CIRDAP has organised a study tour in Bangladesh for 11 senior officials from 30 December 2007 to 6 January 2008. The training and study visit is designed to focus on decentralisation, local development and community led development activities being carried out in Bangladesh.

The subjects are supposed to cover infrastructure, decentralisation, and services delivery at local level, and also arrange study visits to various development projects in Bangladesh. The study visits are designed to be facilitated by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and will have briefings on LGED, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, BRAC, etc.

Field visits have been planned to make the Nepalese officials understand and study Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund (SLGDF) in Sirajganj, infrastructure development project, comprehensive village development projects in Comilla and LGED projects in Chittagong. The participants will meet the local officials and communities at various places for interactive sessions during the visits.

H. E. Mr. Pradeep Khatiwada, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal in Bangladesh, will be the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session of the Training-cum-Exposure Visit programme and will give away certificates to the participants.



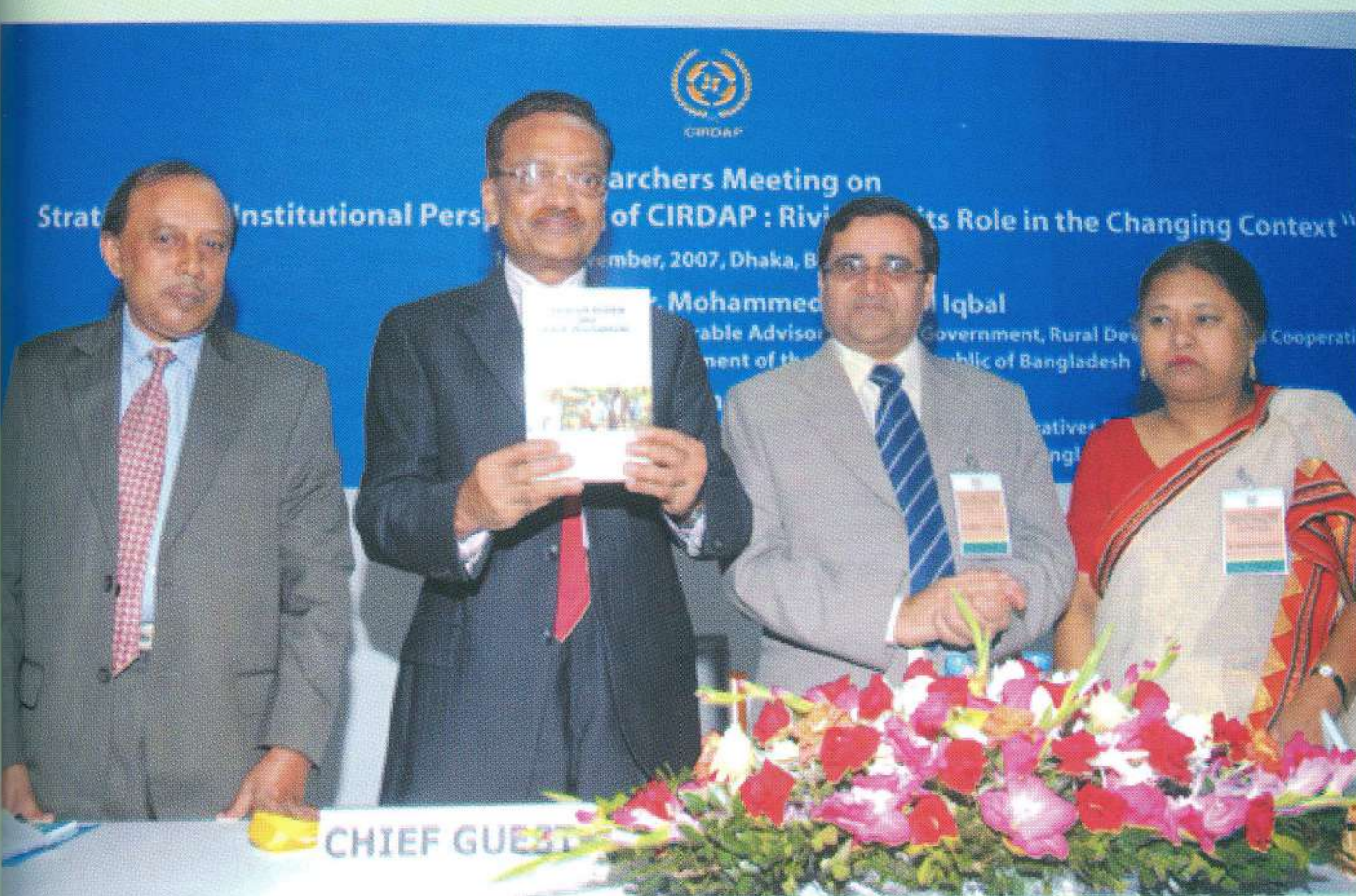


## *Information and Communication*

Information Generation, Management and  
Dissemination  
ICT Support and Services  
CIRDAP Website  
Library Services  
Audio-visual Services  
Public Relations

### **Focused Areas**

- Documenting CIRDAP events
- Knowledge generation and dissemination on RD
- APJORD, CDD and other publications
- Exchange of publications
- Global exposure
- Strengthening ICT
- Upgrading website
- Introducing abstract services on RD articles
- Free electronic periodicals
- Photographic coverage of events
- Image building
- Advocacy for CIRDAP programmes



*H. E. Anwarul Iqbal (2 L) launching a CIRDAP publication on agrarian reform at the researchers' meeting.*



## ***Information and Communication Division***

During the year 2007, ICD applied its skill and creativity to knock every possibility to promote and upgrade internal and external image of the organisation. These are discussed under six major headings:

- Information Generation, Management and Dissemination
- ICT Support and Services
- CIRDAP Website
- Library Services
- Audio-visual Services
- Public Relations

### **Information Generation, Management and Dissemination**

Several innovative ideas with regard to CIRDAP publications were successfully tried out. Better editing, new designs and formatting of publications on par with international standard, promotion of APJORD, and gaining global exposure are some of those.

These efforts brought in rich dividends. Full text and/or abstracts of APJORD articles now can be downloaded from several international websites such as EBSCO Publishing, USA; CAB International, Oxford, UK; Scopus; Google and CIRDAP.

There is an increased popularity of APJORD among academics in Asia and Africa as seen from the large number of articles now being received. The size of the journal has increased by 20-30 per cent. Issues were published on time. Further, with regard to recently published monograph *Agrarian Reform and Rural Development - Sharing Experience of the Philippines*, quoted below the comments of the former EC-26 Chairman, H.E. Gerundio 'Khaliq' Madueno:

*'This book captures interest and is very informative ..... We are interested to order around 50-100 copies for distribution to Philippines Congressmen, Senators and other Philippines Government Agencies'*

During the period under review, two issues of APJORD (i.e. Vol. XVI, No. 2 and Vol. XVII, No. 1) were published. Another APJORD Editorial Board Meeting was held in November 2007 to decide on Vol. XVII, No. 2.

Four issues of the quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest (i.e. Issues Nos.106, 107, 108 and 109) were published. Annual Report 2006 was also published. Two E-bulletins were issued. (In 2008 this is planned to be increased to six issues.) ICD also carried out other editing/printing works which included working papers/materials for TC/EC/GC meetings, divisional reports, publications etc.

ICD also developed a policy to upload full text of all recent CIRDAP publications on the website, getting the readers demand to reach the CIRDAP publications.

Exchange of publications with reputed institutions was strengthened. Steps have been taken to make this arrangement more and more pro-active and expand it to other areas as well. ICD has made concerted efforts to ensure sending publications to SOCSEA and Afghanistan where some difficulties were confronted in the past.



## **ICT Support and Services**

Given the resources, every effort was made by ICD to render a good ICT support service to the organisation. No major interruptions were there during the year due to internal causes.

The internet connectivity has been improved by an optical fibre connection with 192 kbps speed. Currently CIRDAP is maintaining its ICT services with 30 PCs, 2 Laptops, 16 dot matrix printers, 9 laser printers and one scanner. The Local Area Network (LAN) system is functioning through structure cabling with 27 nodes. Almost all the users now have access to the core facilities (e.g. internet browsing, e-mail, web mail, e-learning etc.). The users already have file-sharing facility through the network. Newly bought peripherals for the laptop enabled CP to keep a check on LAN and WAN (Wide Area Network) even on holidays. Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals have also been maintained throughout the year without any hindrance.

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](http://www.cirdap.org.sg) and [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org)
- About 29 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professionals are operating.
- CIRDAP is running its online setup in collaboration with Proshikanet, Global Online and Grameen Cybernet.
- CIRDAP is running its e-commerce site in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

## **CIRDAP Website**

Continuous efforts were also made to make CIRDAP website more dynamic and pro-active. It is increasingly becoming popular, but still not up to our expectation. We intend to carry out website promotional activities in 2008 to increase the number of hits.

CIRDAP website continued to get linked to important websites and facilitate services to academics, researchers etc. The on-line 'Roster of Experts' is becoming increasingly popular. This is to be given more prominence and exposure during the coming year.

All important CIRDAP publications issued during the year 2007 were made available on the website in PDF format. These are becoming popular among users.

Structure for the CIRDAP E-Forum was designed. This is to be linked to the CIRDAP website soon. Technical support and training have been provided to establish web discussion forum namely 'CIRDAP-E-Forum'.

A software programme for mailing list was developed by CP.

## **Library Services**

The avenues to strengthen Aziz-ul Haq Library were explored. Under this the following activities were carried out during the year.

Preliminary planning was done to organise a new 'CIRDAP Rural Development Abstracts' (CIRDAS) service by the Library as an initiative.

The existing online services such as CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service (CONCS) and free Electronic Periodicals were further strengthened. The publication exchange programme was expanded. More important institutes were added to the list. Interactions with CLIs/CCMs is planned to be strengthened in this regard.





*AARDO Secretary General Mr. A. Y. Adam visiting CIRDAP Library.*

Action was initiated to create a separate reference service of all CIRDAP publications. All CIRDAP publications from the inception will be collected and made available here. Action was taken to maintain continent wise folders of rural development materials.

The basic library services (e.g. Current Awareness Service, Selected Dissemination of Information, reference services, bibliographic services, photography services; etc.) have been ensured.

Regular library activities (e.g. processing, accessioning, database entry, shelving books/ periodicals/newspaper clipping etc.) were carried out.

### **Audio-Visual Services**

The services of a professional photographer were engaged to cover major events.

Selected photographs were posted on the website, event wise. Also these photographs were used in publications and put on display in the lobby.

Multi-media services were provided to all CIRDAP events.

A poster was designed and printed for MfDR international exhibition in Vietnam. Photographs of this poster appeared on MfDR newsletters and pamphlets.

Action was taken to maintain proper records of audio-visuals and preserve them in CDs.

### **Public Relations**

As in the previous year, ICD strengthened its public relations programmes in the year 2007 and ensured a good advocacy of the Centre.

All important functions, policy body meetings, seminars got a good media coverage. Important English newspapers such as The Daily Star, The Bangladesh Observers, The News Today, The New Nation, New Age and The Bangladesh Today have provided considerable space for this purpose.

Almost all TV channels, both public and private have telecast CIRDAP events. BTV, NTV, ATN Bangla, Ekushey and Channel I had special programmes on CIRDAP, where they interviewed Director General of CIRDAP.

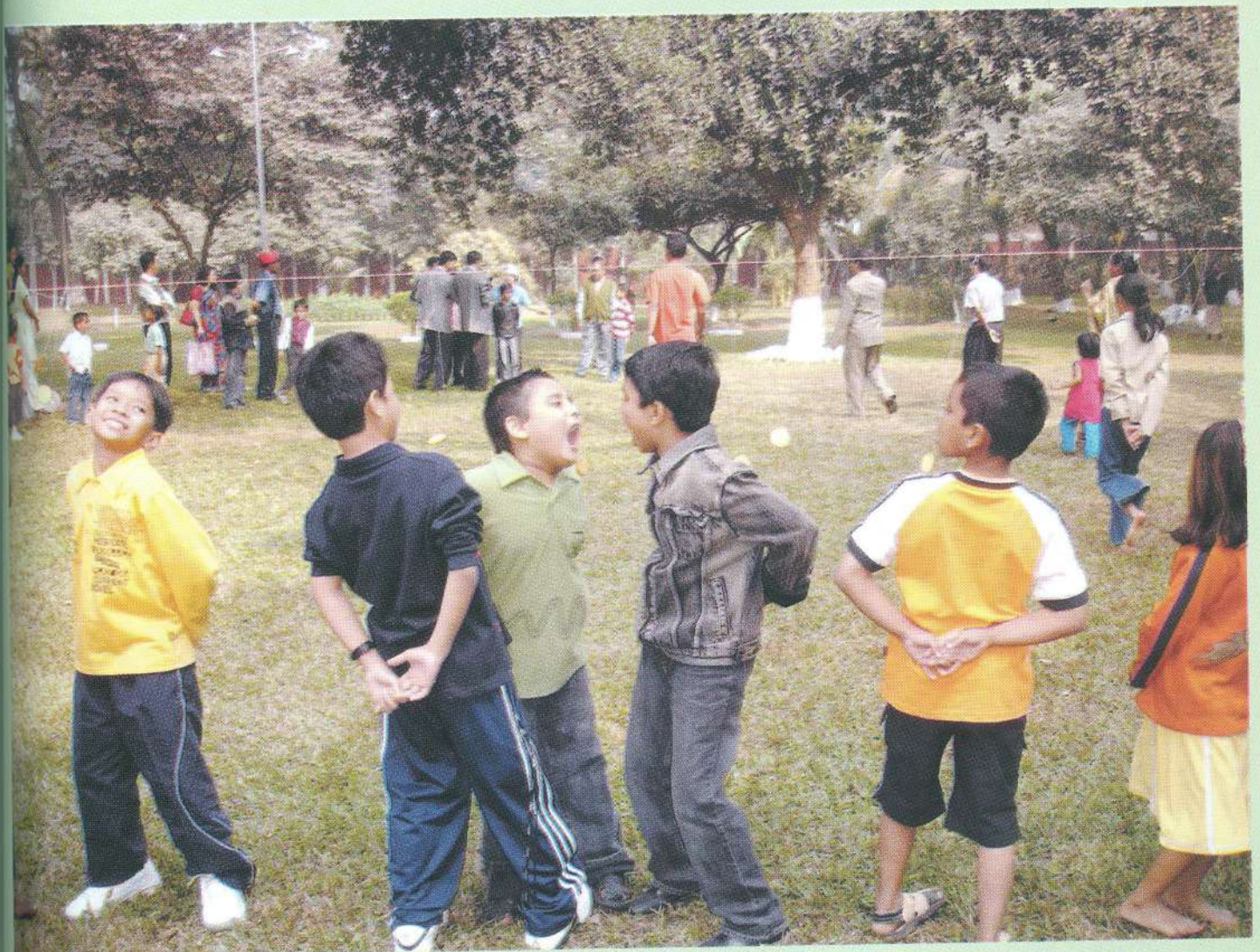
ICD ensured sending the press releases to all media personnel by fax, e-mail and hand delivery to get the CIRDAP events covered during the whole year. Invitations on special functions were sent to the key contacts to build up a good rapport with them.



## *Administration and Finance*

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- Construction of CIRDAP International Conference Centre
- Personal Advisory Committee
- Appointment
- Purchase & Protocol
- Staff Day
- Foundation Day



*CIRDAP Staff Day.*



## **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 administration and financial matters, recruitment, tenure/increment of staff members, developing/ managing/utilising personnel, protocol duties, procurement, maintenance of office premises/properties/campus and arrangement of residential accommodation for professional staff members, management of auditorium/conference rooms/cafeteria, liaison with ministries of Foreign Affairs, LGRD&C, Housing & 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/procedures and manages 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.

## **Activities Performed**

### **Construction of CIRDAP International Conference Centre**

As reported in the Annual Report-2006, initiative has been taken and liaison has been made with Ministries of LGRD and Co-operatives, Housing and Public works, Public Works department and office of Chief Architect for funding, designing and estimation of construction of Six-Story International Conference Centre (ICC) in CIRDAP HQs. Ultimately, after much endeavour, Ministry of LGRD and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh has approved the proposal for construction of International Conference Centre at an estimated amount of Approx. US\$ 23,45,588.00. Government of Bangladesh has already allocated an amount of Tk. 9,99,45,000 (US\$ 1,465,469) during the financial year 2007-2008 for the first phase of the work. Accordingly, the foundation of six-story CIRDAP International Conference Centre (ICC) was laid by the Honourable Advisor, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh on 05 July 2007.

It is expected that the main construction work of first phase will be started by end of January 2008 and to be completed by 2008. The foundation of ICC has been laid by Honourable Adviser, Ministry of Local Govt. Rural Development and Co-operatives on 05 July 2007.

### **Personal Advisory Committee**

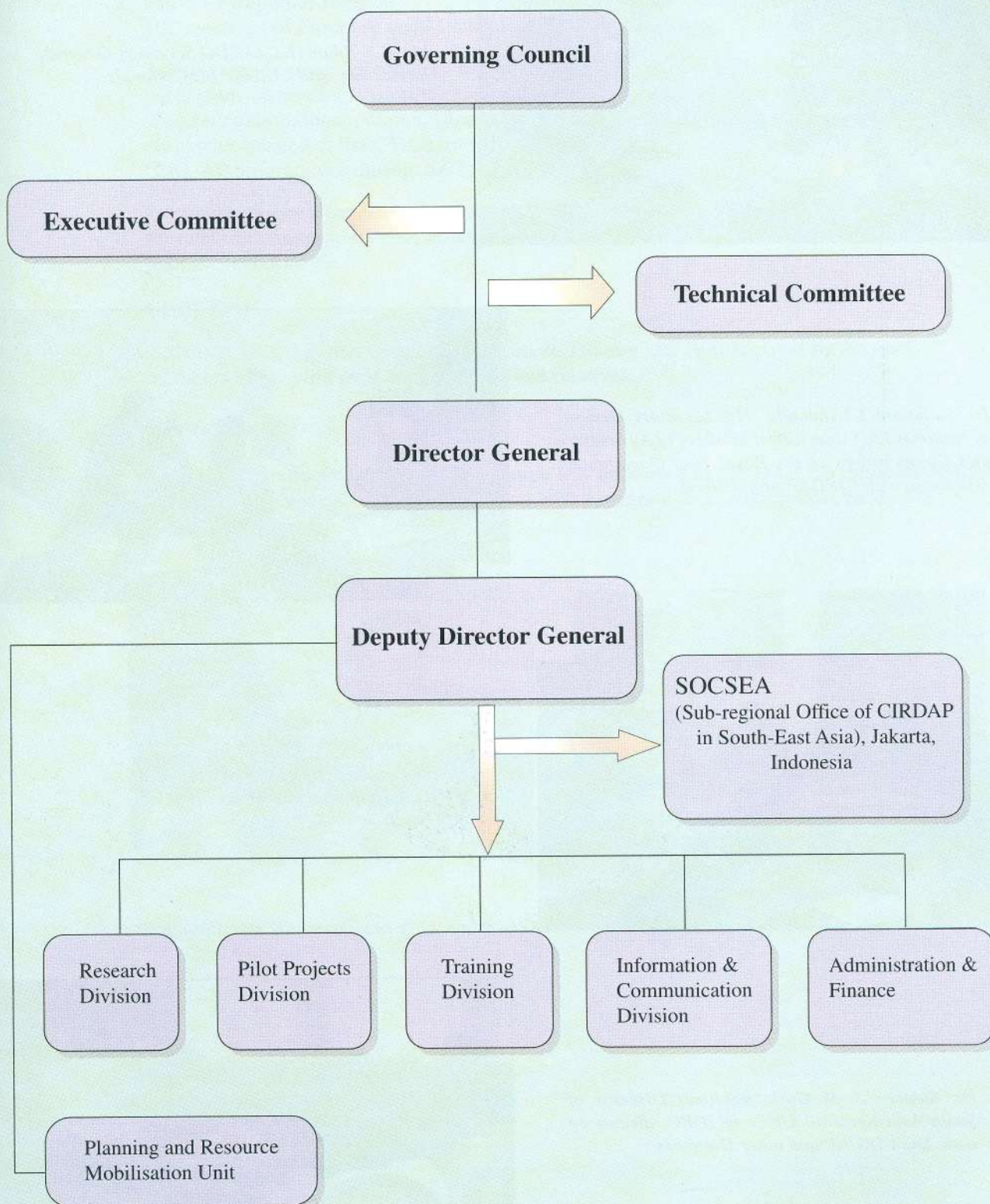
The Personal Advisory Committee (PAC) of CIRDAP advises the Director General regarding all appointment, promotion, renewal of tenure, increment etc. of the staff members and other HR related matters. During 2007, 26 PAC meetings were convened.

### **Appointment**

During 2007, one professional staff was recruited in the vacant post of Director (Research). Two general staff-members were recruited in the vacant post of Librarian and Secretary to DG. Besides, two temporary staff, one Gardener and another Driver, were regularised as fixed-term staff member.



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE







*Mr. A. Y. Adam (L), AARDO Secretary General, interacting with CIRDAP professionals.*

*Dr. Suthiporn Chirapanda (L), Secretary General of National FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of the Royal Thai Government, discussing with CIRDAP professionals.*



*Dr. Andreas Schild (L), Director General of ICIMOD, exchanging views with CIRDAP professionals.*

*Dr. Stephen J. McGurk, Regional Director of South Asia Regional Office of IDRC, discussing with DG CIRDAP and other Directors.*





## **Purchase & Protocol**

The Purchase and Maintenance Committee considers the necessity, cost, quality etc. regarding any purchase/maintenance of property/supply/equipment and provide the authority impartial suggestion/recommendation/comment for taking decision. A total of 101 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2007.

Administration provided required support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA for the participants, attending airport to receive and see the participants off, arranging accommodation, lunch, dinner, supplies, transport etc. for participants, contacting embassies located in the CMCs for the visas of the participants to organise all the CIRDAP programmes during 2007.

Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staffs of CIRDAP in getting renewal of their passport/visa, arrangement for accommodation, renewal of agreements with the land lord etc.

## **Staff Day**

CIRDAP Staff Day had been organised on 26 January 2007 participated by the staff members along with their spouses, kids and relatives.

## **Foundation Day**

The 28th Founding Anniversary programme was organised in CIRDAP. On this occasion, arrangements of recording and telecasting of the separate discussion programme were made in four satellite TV channels.



*Farewell to Ms. Rebecca Gomes, Secretary to DG.*



*Farewell to Ms. Hasina Afroz, Librarian.*



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

*Visit CIRDAP Website at*

**[www.cirdap.org.sg](http://www.cirdap.org.sg)**



## 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 the year 2006 were US\$590,001 and financial support for new and ongoing projects amounted to US\$126,931. CIRDAP provided US\$4,899 out of its Special Reserve Fund for programme activities.

### *Audit of the Accounts*

The Interim accounts of the centre for the year 2006 was audited by Mr. Ahmed Fazli Bim Osman, Senior Auditor, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia during 6-17 May 2007. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditors Reports and the financial statements for the year 2006 have been furnished below:

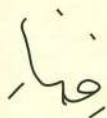
#### AUDITOR'S REPORT

##### INTERIM AUDIT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

I have audited the financial statements of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) for the first half of the biennium year 2006-2007 ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 and related statements for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of CIRDAP. My responsibility is to audit and to express an opinion of the statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit based on approved auditing standards and CIRDAP's Financial Regulation. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatements or omissions. The audit includes examining the records, on a test basis, evidence supporting the figures and ensuring adequate disclosures in the financial statements. An assessment is also made on the accounting principles used and the overall financial statements presentation.

In my opinion, the financial statements were presented fairly, in all material aspects. This report is to be read together with the Auditor's Observation attached.



AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN

External Auditor

National Audit Department

Malaysia

Dhaka, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007



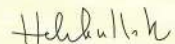
# CIRDAP

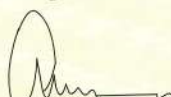
## Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)

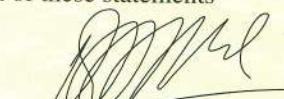
Interim Accounts as on December 31, 2006


Account Code	Assets	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$	Notes	2006 Calendar Year in US\$
40100	Cash in Hand	8,861.09	1	7,703.83
40200	Cash in Banks	731,353.56	1	70,203.93
40300	Investment in Banks	-	1	555,328.65
40000	Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks	740,214.65		633,236.41
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	116,396.69	2	248,256.57
40402	Advance to Staff	34,237.14	4	69,152.74
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	5,811.07	5	3,864.37
40404	Other Accounts Receivables	3,038.98		
40000	Subtotal of Receivables	159,483.88		321,273.68
80000	Fixed Assets	389,103.79	3	389,162.19
80000	Subtotal of Fixed Assets	389,103.79		389,162.19
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,288, 802.32</b>		<b>1,343,672.28</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>				
10101	Accrued Salary and allowances	-		-
10102	Other Accounts Payable	6,136.94	6	7,039.57
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	-		16.74
	<b>Sub Total of Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,136.94</b>		<b>7,056.31</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
20100	Genera Fund (GF)	250,369.28		391,616.00
80000	Fixed Assets	389,103.79	3	389,162.19
	Subtotal of General Fund	639,473.07		780,778.19
20200	Trust Fund (TF)	312,293.06		216,636.13
20300	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317.00		130,317.00
20400	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	184,253.06		193,435.10
20500	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	16,329.19		15,449.50
	<b>Subtotal of Other Funds</b>	<b>643, 192.31</b>		<b>555,837.78</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>1,288,802.32</b>		<b>1,343,672.28</b>

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

  
FINANCE OFFICER  
Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
ADMIN OFFICER  
Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN  
External Auditor  
National Audit Department  
Malaysia  
Dhaka, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007

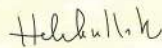


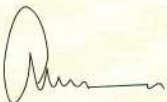
**CIRDAP**  
**General Fund (GF)**

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the year ended December 31, 2006


Account Code	Income	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$	2006 Calendar Year in US\$
20100	Opening Balance of Fund	666,142.46	639,473.07
	Less : Assets retained per contra as on 31 December 1999 and 2001	(369,860.10)	(389, 103.79)
		296,282.36	250,369.28
	Less: Advance from WCF	(120,000.00)	
	Advance from DRF	(150,000.00)	
		26,282.36	250,369.28
20300	Temporary Loan from WCF	120,000.00	
	Less: Refund during 2004	(120,000.00)	
20400	Temporary Loan from DRF	150,000.00	
	Less: Refund during 2004	(50,000.00)	
		100,000.00	
40401	Waiver of CMC Cont. Receivable (For Afghanistan from 1996-2000)	(55,170.00)	
70101	CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	1,162,016.23	590,001.00
70200	Miscellaneous Income	53,340.72	50,008.26
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,286,469.31</b>	<b>890,378.54</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	233,300.48	141,753.11
80102	General Staff Salary	293,888.79	132,799.68
80104	General Staff Overtime	5,147.00	2,330.71
		532,336.27	276,883.50
80200	Common Staff Cost	104,705.11	45,145.16
80300	Official Travels	116,752.21	43,661.55
80400	External Audit	5,061.45	3,000.00
80600	General Operating Expenses	235,654.93	121,945.63
80700	Supplies and Materials	22,346.37	8,068.30
80800	Acquisition of Assets	19,243.69	58.40
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,036,100.03</b>	<b>498,762.54</b>
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	<b>250,369.28</b>	<b>391,616.00</b>

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

  
FINANCE OFFICER  
Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
ADMIN OFFICER  
Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
Dhaka, December 31, 2006

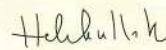
  
AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN  
External Auditor  
National Audit Department  
Malaysia  
Dhaka, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007




**CIRDAP**  
**Trust Fund (TF)**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2006**


Account Code	Income	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$	2006 Calendar Year in US\$
20200	Opening Balance of Fund	212,397.41	312,293.06
20200	Allocation From Special Reserve Fund		
	During the Year 2005	41,500.00	
	During the Year 2006		4,898.64
		41,500.00	4,898.64
10102	Adjustment of Payables	-	
70301	UN Agency Contribution	55,250.00	10,000.00
70302	Country Contributions (JAPAN)	-	-
70303	Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	593,594.82	116,931.88
		648,844.82	126,931.88
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>902,742.23</b>	<b>444,123.58</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
90100	Research Projects	19,120.74	28,233.82
90200	Pilot Projects	282,885.93	40,115.69
90300	Training Projects	261,102.67	153,006.65
90400	Doc. & Information Projects	27,339.93	6,131.29
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>590,449.17</b>	<b>227,487.45</b>
Fund Balance carried to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)		<b>312,293.06</b>	<b>216,636.13</b>

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

  
 FINANCE OFFICER  
 Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
 ADMIN OFFICER  
 Dhaka, December 31, 2006

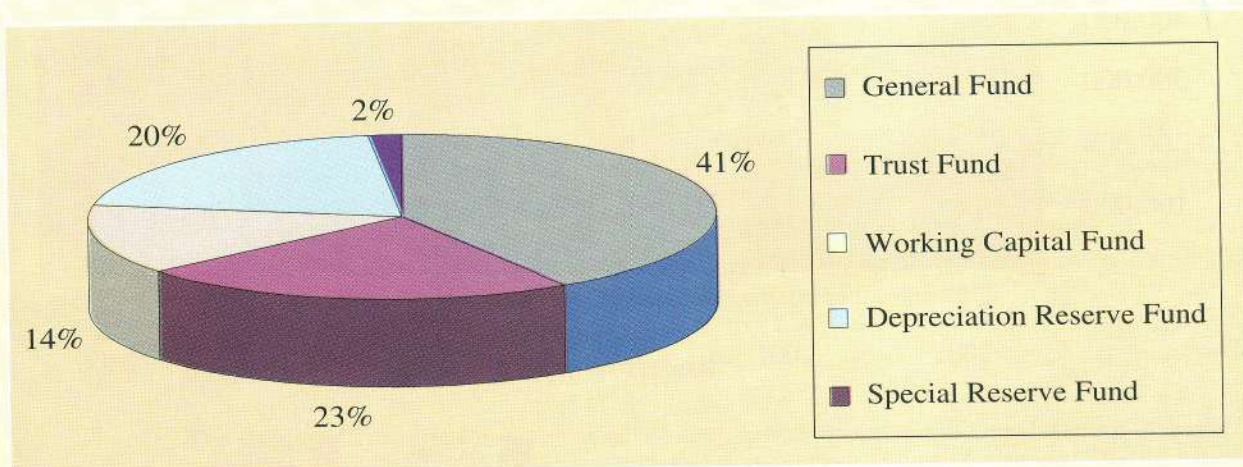
  
 DIRECTOR GENERAL  
 Dhaka, December 31, 2006

  
 AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN  
 External Auditor  
 National Audit Department  
 Malaysia  
 Dhaka, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007



### CIRDAP Fund Status as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

Sl.	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	391,616
2	Trust Fund	216,636
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	193,435
5	Special Reserve Fund	15,450
	<b>Total</b>	<b>947,454</b>

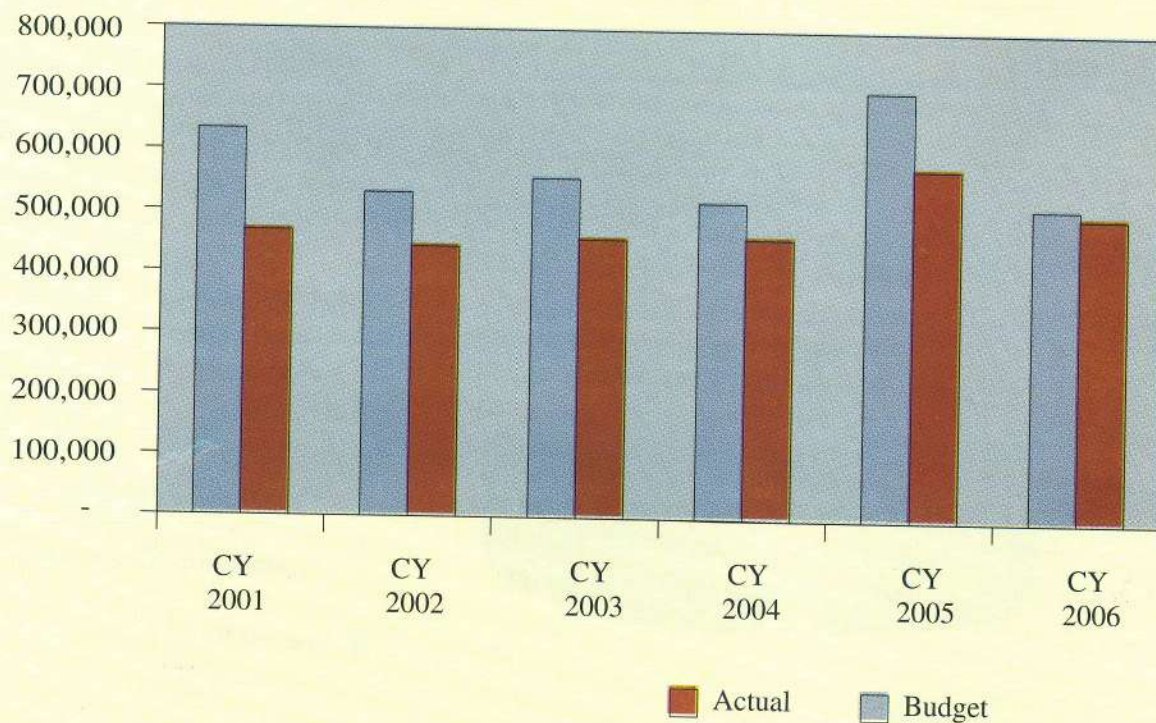




## CIRDAP General Fund

*Amount in US\$*

	<i>CY 2001</i>	<i>CY 2002</i>	<i>CY 2003</i>	<i>CY 2004</i>	<i>CY 2005</i>	<i>CY 2006</i>
<b>Budget</b>	633,090	531,202	556,320	518,667	702,024	513,323
<b>Actual</b>	467,917	442,978	456,903	460,252	575,848	498,763





## ***Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP***

The Sub-regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) in Jakarta, Indonesia is assisting CIRDAP Headquarters in expanding its membership, resources and conducting programme activities. It was established on 21 February 1997 in accordance with a decision taken at the 10th Governing Council Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Since its inception, SOCSEA in collaboration with various agencies/organisations has implemented 51 programmes.

During the year 2007, SOCSEA has organised three regional and eight in-country programmes.



### ***Regional Programmes***

#### **Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting for the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held on 26-27 November 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia in collaboration with the UNESCAP Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crop's Development in Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP-CAPSA), the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of FAO, the UNCCD Secretariat and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The objective of the meeting was to prepare inputs from Asian and Pacific perspective for the CSD at its sixteenth session in the relevant thematic cluster of issues, namely, agriculture, land, rural development, drought and desertification.

The meeting was attended by the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkey, United States of America, Uzbekistan and International Organisation. Upon the invitation from the UNESCAP ESD, the Acting Head of SOCSEA attended the meeting.

#### **Training on Women Empowerment**

The Regional Training Programme on Women Empowerment and Development through Enterprise Promotion was held on 22-31 October 2007 in Bali, Indonesia as a joint programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA and National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India. The training was attended by 27 participants from the CIRDAP member countries.





### **Training on Renewable Energy**

The Training on Renewable Energy: Micro-Hydro Power for Rural Development was held on 7-12 May 2007 in Bandung and Subang, West Java, Indonesia as a joint programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA, Government of Indonesia and Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC). It was the fourth activity undertaken as a follow-up of the MoU between CIRDAP and the Government of Indonesia/NAM-CSSTC. (See Page 54 for details.)

## ***In-Country Programmes***

### **Training on Skill Enhancement**

The Training on Skill Enhancement in Production of Varieties of Brown Sugar as Women Economic Empowerment was held on 11-12 December 2007 in Purbalingga, Central Java, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA in collaboration with the Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency.

The training was the eighth In-Country programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA convened in Indonesia in the year 2007. The training was attended by 80 participants representing various women organisations such as Centres on Integrated Women Empowerment (CIWA), Women Welfare Association (PKK) and Women SMEs in Purbalingga Regency.

### **Training on Mushroom**

The Training on Utilisation of Varieties of Mushroom for Production of Nutrition Rich Food was held on 29-30 August 2007 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Yogyakarta Special Region. The training was attended by 20 participants representing small food enterprises and association of food producers.



## **Training on Improvement of Preservation Technology**

The Training on Improvement of Preservation Technology in Wood Handicraft Small Industry for Enhancing Community Income was held on 6-11 August 2007 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Yogyakarta Special Region. A total of 20 representatives from wooden based small industries in Yogyakarta participated in the programme.

## **Workshop on Empowerment of Coastal Community**

The Workshop on Empowerment of Coastal Community through the Development of Coastal Women Participation was held on 4-6 June 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA in collaboration with the Directorate of Coastal Community Empowerment, Ministry of Marine and Fishery, Republic of Indonesia.

The workshop was participated in by 30 participants representing Regional Governments of 14 Regencies. This programme was part of the earlier workshop which was participated by representatives of local governments from 93 regencies in Indonesia.

## **Seminar on Strengthening Business Capital for Women**

The Seminar on Strengthening of Business Capital for Women Micro-Entrepreneur Through Household Venture Credit Programme (KRISTA): Effort for Women Empowerment in Economic Field as a Solution Toward Welfare Family was held on 24 April 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA and Ministry of Co-operatives and SMEs, Republic of Indonesia.

A total of 40 participants who were members of PKK from various ministries and institutions participated in the seminar. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Agus Muharram, Deputy Minister for Business Financing, Ministry of Co-operatives and SME.

## **Seminar on Strengthening Women Co-operatives**

The Seminar on Women Programme for Healthy and Welfare Family (PERKASSA) through Strengthening Women Cooperatives: Women Empowerment Measures as New Strength in Enlarging Employment Opportunity and Poverty Alleviation was held on 17 April 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA in collaboration with Ministry of Co-operatives and SME, Republic of Indonesia.

A total of 46 participants, mostly members of PKK. Representatives from Co-operatives Department of the Indonesia Chamber of Commerce and NGOs were also participated. Mr. Agus Muharram, Deputy Minister for Business Financing, Ministry of Co-operatives and SME inaugurated the seminar.

## **Training on Non-Organic Fertiliser Production**

The Training on Production of Non-Organic Fertiliser as Women Empowerment Measures for Enhancing Community Income was held on 2-3 April 2007 in Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia as a joint programme of SOCSEA and the Regional Government of Bekasi c.q. Regional Office of Tourism, Youth and Women Empowerment of Bekasi Municipality, West Java.



A total of 60 participants who are members of PKK at Village and Sub-District level and members of other women social associations participated in the workshop.

### **Training on the Utilisation of Aloevera**

SOCSEA in collaboration with Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency c.q. Women Welfare Association, Regional Office of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives, Regional Office of Health and coordinated by the Agency for Women Empowerment and Children Protection organised the Training on the Utilisation of Aloevera to Produce Healthy Soft Drink for Enhancing Family Income on 7-8 March 2007 in Purbalingga, Central Java, Indonesia.

The training was participated by 90 women representing 18 groups of PKK from 18 Sub-Districts in Purbalingga Regency. Mr. Triyono Budi Susongko, Regent of Purbalingga, inaugurated the training.

### **Recent CIRDAP Publications**

- Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: Sharing Experiences from the Philippines Policy Dialogue Report 2. CIRDAP 2007.
- Rural Development Report 2007. Study Series No. 201. CIRDAP 2007.
- Current Status and Future Perspectives of Rural Development in the CIRDAP Member Countries. Study Series No. 200. CIRDAP 2006.
- Rural Development Report 2005. Study Series No. 199. CIRDAP 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.
  
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVII, No. 2. December 2007.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVII, No. 1. July 2007.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVI, No. 1. July 2006.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 2. December 2005.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 1. July 2005.



## *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. Dr. Paudyal served several national and international organisations in Nepal as a Consultant. He was also a professional staff-member of CIRDAP from 1986 to 1995. He has contributed a lot in the policy-making process of Nepal as a member of the High Level Decentralisation 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

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 resource person. He was short-term UN Consultant for UCB in Kampala; Visiting Faculty of Development Economics, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok; Visiting Fellow at ILGS, University of Birmingham; National Resource Person for poverty alleviation training in Asia and the Pacific (IFAD-assisted projects coordinated by AARDO in India) and Expert Committee Member of some ministries (HRD, S&T etc.) in India. He worked as a faculty member at the National Institute for Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET), Hyderabad, India. Dr. Rao has organised more than 30 international training programmes and directed a number of research studies. He also authored/coauthored many books and papers. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked as Director at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India. Dr. Rao has joined CIRDAP in January 2002.





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

[M.Sc. in Development Communication, University of Philippines]  
Director, Information and Communication

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.



**Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Bangladesh**

[Ph.D in Economics, Boston University, U.S.A;  
Msc. in Economics, London School of Economics, UK]  
Director, Research

Dr. Nasreen, Professor of Economics at the University of Dhaka, is a reputed researcher and has published her research works widely in national and international journals. She has also served the Government of Bangladesh as Member (Economist), National Wages and Productivity Commission 1998, and subsequently as Member, National Minimum Wages Board. She was also Member, Consultative Committee to the Finance Minister, Government of Bangladesh, 1996-2001. She has participated in many international conferences and has also worked as a consultant for several international agencies. Her research has concentrated on various contemporary issues of development, including that of rural development. She thus brings to CIRDAP a wealth of research experience. Dr. Nasreen has joined CIRDAP in April 2007.



**Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Philippines**

[M.A. in Community Development, University of the Philippines;  
Completed Course work in Doctor of Public Administration, U.P., Diliman]  
Programme Officer, Research

Ms. Tuzon had worked since 1988-91 as Senior Training Officer and onwards as Agrarian Reform Programme Officer in the Department of Agrarian Reform, contact agency of CIRDAP in the Philippines. Ms. Tuzon was designated as Monitoring Officer for the Land Tenure Improvement of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme. She was also involved in the Work and Financial Planning, focal person in Leasehold Programme and Commercial Farm Deferments; led various secretariats and task force committees related to land issues at the regional and provincial levels. She had recent trainings on International Programme for Development Evaluation and Facilitation in line with Managing for Development Results. She was likewise an instructor in Economics and Sociology in Mount Carmel. Ms. Tuzon has joined CIRDAP in July 2004.





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

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

As an agronomist, Ms. San San Hla has served Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise for about one year till September 2004. She worked as Action Research Fellow for one of CIRDAP's pilot projects from 2000 to 2003. She was with the Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's Office as an Administrative Officer from 1993 to 2000. She worked as a Cropping System Research Fellow 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 Research Fellow in the field of Crop Production and Crop Breeding specialising in cotton and jute when she was with the Agricultural Research Institute in Myanmar from 1980 to 1988. Ms. San San Hla has joined CIRDAP in October 2004.



**Dr. Majibar Rahman, Bangladesh**  
[Master in Rural Social Development, University of Reading, U.K.;  
M.Com. in Management, Dhaka University;  
Ph.D., Preston University, USA]  
Special Officer, PRMU

A government servant for more than 15 years, Dr. Rahman 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 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. Dr. Rahman got National Award for his outstanding performance and contribution in the field of Co-operatives and Rural Development in 1986. He received training in UK, Greece, India and Japan in the fields of rural and social development; co-operatives; microfinance; human security; participatory rural development and local government in Japan; and rural regional development planning etc. Dr. 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)]  
Head of Administration and Finance

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 Co-operatives (LGRD&C) - Contact Ministry of CIRDAP. Though his expertise is on Administration and Management, he has developed knowledge and expertise 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 in February 2005.



**Mr. 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 of the Centre. Mr. Rahman worked as a project staff in the project 'Food Control Drainage and Irrigation' 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

Mr. Rafe 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, Bangladesh as IT officer. He also worked at the Mercantile Bank Limited and was a part-time lecturer at the 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.



**Mohammad Habibullah, Bangladesh**

[M.Com in Management, MBA (Finance),  
CA (cc), PGDPM (1<sup>st</sup> Part)]  
Finance Officer

Mr. Habibullah 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, a national NGO, for eight years. Mr. Habibullah has joined CIRDAP in November 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 coming from abroad. Mr. Azam has joined CIRDAP in March 1991.



**Ms. Zeenat Ahmed, Bangladesh**

[M.S.S. in Economics, Dhaka University]  
Assistant Information and Communication Officer

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



**Dr. Usharani Boruah, India**

[Ph.D. in Library Science, Moscow State University of Arts & Culture, Russia]  
Librarian

Dr. Usharani served as Librarian in various organisations for more than eight years. She worked as Librarian at the Indian Embassy and the Indian International School in Moscow, Russia, at the University of Development Alternative, Bangladesh and also as Medical Librarian at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. She has vast experience in various education programmes in the field of Library Development, Community Development and Ethnic Development through Library Education and Policy. Dr. Usharani has joined CIRDAP in July 2007.



**Mr. S. M. Saifuddin, Bangladesh**

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

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



## *Other Staff-members*

Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Ahmed	:	Finance Assistant
Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	:	Senior Secretary (Training)
Mr. M. Shahjahan Patwary	:	Secretary (Pilot Projects)
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	:	Secretary (Administration)
Mr. Shidhartha Sen Gupta	:	Property & Supply Assistant
Mr. M. Kabir Ahmed Siddiqui	:	Library Assistant
Mr. Md. Akram Ullah	:	Cashier
Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan	:	Secretary (Research)
Mr. M. Mohibur Rahaman	:	Secretary (ICD)
Mr. M. Mahbub Alam	:	Personnel Assistant
Mr. Shyamal Bikash Chakma	:	Secretary to DG
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	:	Computer Operator
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	:	Clerk-Typist (Finance)
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal	:	Typist (Administration)
Mr. Md. Abu Taher	:	Driver
Mr. Md. Abu Sohel Akhter	:	Driver
Mr. Mofizul Islam Sarkar	:	Driver
Mr. Mohd. 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. Md. Ramjan Ali	:	Watchman
Mr. Md. Dianat Khan	:	Watchman
Mr. Narayan Ch. Mondal	:	Janitor
Mr. Shimul Barua	:	Driver
Mr. Sujit Ch. Das	:	Janitor
Mr. Md. Belayet Hossain	:	Janitor
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	:	Messenger
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	:	Messenger
Mr. Martin Does	:	Messenger
Mr. Md. 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	LAN	The Local Area Network
ADB	Asian Development Bank	LCG	Local Consultative Group
AHK NCRD&MA	Akhter Hamid Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration	LDGP	Local Development Coordination Programme
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
APC	Annual Planning Conference	LGD	Local Government Division
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
APO	Asian Productivity Organisation	LGSP	Local Government Support Programme
ASA	Association for Social Advancement	LIs	Link Institutions
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
BCCP	Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programme	MfDR	Managing for Development Results
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
BIRD	Bankers' Institute for Rural Development	MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	NAFES	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services
BUG	Beel Users Group	NAM-CSSTC	Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation
CARD	CIRDAP Approach for Rural Development	NBDs	Nation Building Departments
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	NERC	North Eastern Regional Centre
CCMs	CIRDAP Contact Ministries	NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
CDFs	Community Development Facilitators	NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
CIARPS	CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar	PA	Poverty Alleviation
CIRDAS	CIRDAP Rural Development Abstracts	PAC	Personal Advisory Committee
CIWA	Centres on Integrated Women Empowerment	PASViD	Participatory Approach to Sustainable Development
CLI	Link Institutions	PCs	Personal Computers
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	PDBF	Palli Daridra Bimochon Foundation
CONCS	CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service	PDs	Project Directors
CoP-MfDR	Community of Practice on Managing for Development Result	PKK	Women Welfare Association
CP	Computer Programmer	PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation
CPMs	Country Portfolio Managers	PPD	Pilot Project Division
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	PRA	Participatory Rapid Appraisal
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	PRDP	Participatory Rural Development Project
DFID	Department for International Development	PRMU	Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit
DG	Director General	PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
DSA	Daily Service Allowance	PWB	Programme Works of Budget
EC	Executive Committee	RCF	Regional Cooperation Fund
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation	RD	Rural Development
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	RDA	Rural Development Academy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	RDCD	Rural Development and Cooperative Division
GC	Governing Council	RNAs	Rural Non-farm Activities
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	RPOs	Rural Poor Organisations
GO	Government Organisation	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
GoB	Government of Bangladesh	SARD-M	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions
ICAR	Indian Council for Agricultural Research	SCBRMP	Sunamganj Community Based Resource Management Project
ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	SCOPE	Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia
ICC	International Conference Centre	SFDW	Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	SHG s	Self-Help Groups
ICSOs	International Civil Service Organisations	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ICT	Information Communication Technology	SLGDFP	Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund Project
IDE	Institute of Developing Economies	SOCSEA	Sub-Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
IDRC	International Development Research Centre	TC	Technical Committee
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
INGOs	International Non-Government Organisations	UP	Union Parishad
IRD	Integrated Rural Development	VC	Village Committee
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WAN	Wide Area Network
		WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development
		WTO	World Trade Organisation



# REGIONAL IRD NETWORK

## Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Dev., Darul Aman Road, Nela Bagh Street Kabul City	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Darul Aman Road Nila Bagh Stgreet Kabul City
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Kotbari, Comilla - 3500	Rural Development & Co-operatives Division Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Development & Cooperatives, Dhaka
India	National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad-500030	Ministry of Rural Development Rajendranagar 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 Jakarta10110
Iran	Rural Development Planning Office Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Shahid Abbaspoor Street Valiassr Avenue Tehran	Economic and Planning Affairs Keshavars Boulevard Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Jihad-e-Agriculture Building 16th Floor, 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 0100
Malaysia	Institute of Rural Advancement Ministry of Rural & Regional Dev. Bandar Baru Bandi, 43000 Kajang Selangor	Ministry of Rural & Regional Development Level 9, Block D9, Parcel D Federal Gov. Administrative Centre 62606 Putrajaya
Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation 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, 2nd Floor, State Life Building Blue Area, Islamabad 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 Development & Agrarian Services Dev. Govijana Mandiraya, Battaramulla
Thailand	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok
Vietnam	Department of Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bach Thao Hanoi





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