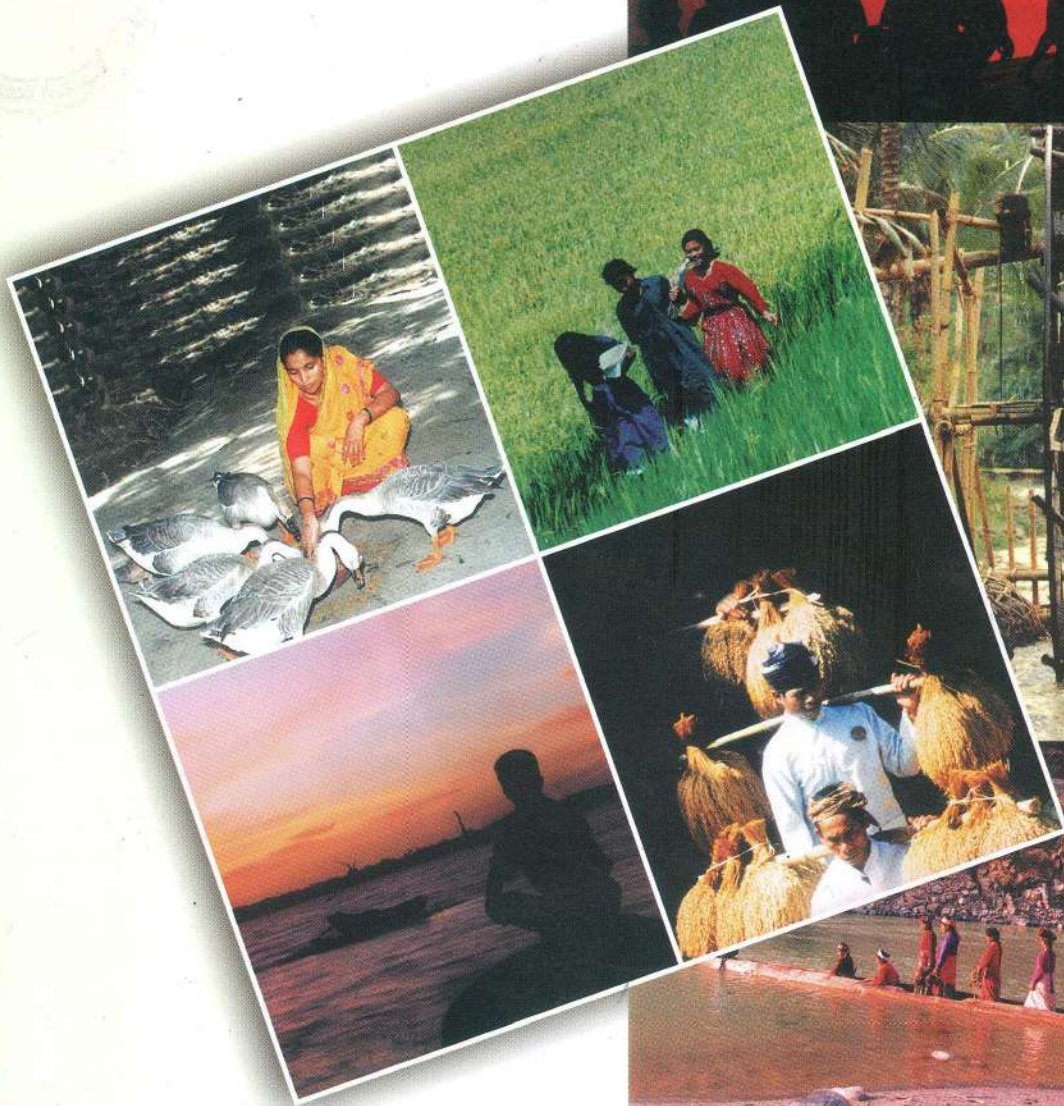


CIRDAP

Annual Report 2008



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

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

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

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

Within these areas of concern the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. health, education and nutrition); Employment generation through

microcredit support; Infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; GO-NGO collaboration; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for sustainable rural development.

Operating through designated contact ministries and link institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes regional cooperation. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

Vision

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

Mission

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



CIRDAP

Annual Report

2008



CIRDAP



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

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CIRDAP Annual Report 2008

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2008 *in Review*

Director General's Report



During the three decades of its existence, CIRDAP has contributed immensely to the implementation of the outcome of 'peasant charter', which is also known as the 'Charter of the Rural Poor', resulted from the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in 1979. Issues and concerns of the Charter, such as redistribution of economic and political power, inclusion of rural areas and the rural poor in development, enhancing access to resources and employment in rural areas, focus on non-farm rural activities, education and training activities and agrarian reform still continue to be priority areas for public policy.

Nevertheless there has been a change over the years in the approaches to rural development, particularly in orientation and thrust. These changes, in most cases, have been guided by the context under which rural development is emerging. In the recent times, CIRDAP has also taken cognisance of the fact that knowledge has become the most important capital of the present age in formulating its policies and strategies. With current ICT technology, now more and more possibilities are there for archiving, retrieving and sharing knowledge.

The 'information poverty' in rural areas can be dealt with ICT to create economic opportunities, to improve access to basic services, to increase the impact of education and health service. The strategic opportunities ICT can offer for closing social divide through e-governance, automation of local administration and improving access to information to the rural poor, have become a critical imperative in development effort. With an overall aim of achieving transparency, accountability, people's participation and good governance, it has become the most dynamic force to change the quality of life of rural masses.

New Delhi Declaration



H.E. Hamid Ansari giving inaugural speech

This enormous future promise of the application of ICT in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) has been captioned and emphasised in the New Delhi Declaration adopted by the Ministers and senior officials from 14 CMCs. This New Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Livelihood (NDDSL) was promulgated during the Ministerial Retreat and Special CIRDAP Governing Council Meeting jointly organised by the Government of India and CIRDAP in New Delhi on 25-26 June 2008 and was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India, H.E. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, and the proceedings were presided over by H.E. Shri Raguvansh Prasad Singh, Minister for Rural Development, India.

The NDDSL agreed upon taking some affirmative actions in CMCs on the improvement of rural livelihood, empowerment of rural women and leveraging ICT for rural development in terms of national policies and strategies. Some of these include promoting regional cooperation in marketing of rural products and facilitating ICT to reach rural areas. The declaration also called for simple, affordable and cost-effective technology with maximum coverage in rural areas.



A working session of the retreat presided over by H.E. Dr. Raghuwansh P. Singh (C)

During the three-day conference, deliberations had taken place on the various initiatives taken by different member countries towards poverty alleviation and rural development. The visiting delegates were deeply impressed by various steps taken by India in bringing about a directed change in the rural areas in general and particularly by the unique National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and the SHG movement which is transforming the face of rural India as never before.

Socio-economic Condition in CMCs

The CMCs located in West, South and Southeast Asia contained a total population of 2.8 billion in 2006. This constitutes two-fifths of the world-population, with 58 per cent of them living in the rural areas, depending mostly on agriculture for livelihood. Asia-Pacific region accounts for 800 million of over 1.2 billion extreme poor of the world. Density of population per sq km in CMCs ranges for 26 in Lao PDR to 1003 in Bangladesh. The average life expectancy at birth has consistently increased in all the countries. The average longevity has crossed 70 years in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In some of the countries like Afghanistan, the figures are still in 40s. Infant mortality rate per thousand is as high as 165 (Afghanistan), 56 per cent of the children below 5 years are underweight (Bangladesh), 70 per cent of the population has

no access to improved sanitation in Lao PDR. Population below international poverty line (below US\$ 1 a day) varies from 2 per cent (Malaysia, Iran and Thailand) to 38 per cent (Bangladesh). Although GDP per capita has increased for all CMCs, there is variation in the West Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian countries.

As shown above the physical progress of these changes has been mixed. It was observed that some countries in the Asia-Pacific region made spectacular progress in terms of economic growth while others lagged behind. Yet the region's share in global trade, finance and investment recorded an overall increase. Some countries have undergone or are in the process of going through radical transformation. Rising rates of economic growth and per capita income, which are often counted as determining factors for measuring stages of development, have been faster than ever before. However, the poor, particularly the rural poor, remained marginalised. The recent food and energy crisis have affected most of them extensively.

Technical Committee (TC-24)

CIRDAP'S Technical Committee (TC) is one of the policy bodies that provide technical advice on professional matters concerning plans and strategies for implementation and coordination of activities carried out by the Centre under the auspices of the member countries. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Technical Committee (TC-24) was held at Dhulikhel, Nepal from 5 to 7 May 2008. TC members from all CMCs attended the meeting. Also present were CIRDAP IRD-Expert (Japan), representatives of ICIMOD, NABARD, NAM-CSST, Commonwealth Secretariat and members of the CIRDAP Evaluation Committee from India, Iran and Malaysia. The Commonwealth Secretariat agreed in principle to be partner CIRDAP in advancing capacity development and networking of CLIs.

Second Ministerial Meeting of Rural Development

The Special Governing Council Meeting in New Delhi decided to hold the Second Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 8-12 November 2009. The following broad guidelines were given to hold the meeting:

- a. Theme of the Ministerial Meeting: Working Together for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods or Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods.
- b. Title of the Rural Development Report 2009: Changing Rural Livelihoods: Constraints and Opportunities
- c. 2009 be declared as: CIRDAP Year of Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

The Government of Bangladesh will host the meeting and the Government of Japan will provide funding support. Invitations are to be extended to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, UN agencies and major donors.

CIRDAP Evaluation

There had been sea change in national and international level after the establishment of CIRDAP in 1979. At national level, government was the main agency for rural development policy formulation and implementation, while at international level FAO has taken lead role for providing the technical support. By now this ground situation has changed vastly. Hence in response to the felt need to redefine the role of CIRDAP in the present context, the CIRDAP Governing Council constituted an Evaluation Team from its member countries with the following terms of reference (ToR).

- Redefining the role of CIRDAP in the new context.
- Institute linkage of CIRDAP with FAO and other UN bodies and international organisations.
- Institutional networking between CIRDAP and CMCs at operational level.
- Institutional linkages with other intergovernmental organisations such as ECO, SAARC, BMSTEC, ASEAN, ICIMOD, GMR etc.

- Resource generation to make a significant impact in the new challenges.
- Expansion of membership to other countries of Asia-Pacific region and other region.

The Evaluation Team has visited a number of CMCs and is now finalising their report. This report is also to be taken up for discussion by the Second Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2009 in order to chart its future roadmap.

CIARPS

CIRDAP In-House Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) is a forum of the CIRDAP staff 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 CIRDAP policy body meetings.

CIARPS 2007 was held during 23-24 January 2008 at the CIRDAP Headquarters. The seminar reviewed the Centre's activities, programme/projects conducted during 2007 and formulated action plan for the year 2008. During the deliberations it also reviewed suggestions of the TC/EC/GC meetings. The Sub-regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) also presented their progress report for 2007 and work plan for 2008.

New Director General

At the Special Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council held in New Delhi, India, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, incumbent Director General, CIRDAP was re-elected as the Director General of CIRDAP for another term of four years (2008-2011).

CIRDAP International Conference Centre

The Governance of Bangladesh, the host country, has initiated construction of a six-storied International Conference Centre for CIRDAP at a cost of US\$2.3 million since 2008. The construction of the first phase is to be completed before the Second Ministerial Meeting scheduled to be held in 2009.



An artist's view of CIRDAP ICC

Training Grant from India

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Rural Development, provided a grant of approximately US\$212,400 for organising several regional training programmes and exposure visits. These programmes were organised for capacity building in the CMCs.

Participation in International Forums, Meetings

MfDR

Director General, CIRDAP participated in the thirteenth meeting of the joint venture on Managing for Development Results (MfDR) organised by ADB and OECD on 17-19 June 2008 at OECD Headquarters in Paris, France. The meeting discussed the issues of Accra High Level Forum on Aid-Effectiveness.



Group photo of the participants of the meeting

NAM-CSSTC

A meeting between CIRDAP and NAM-CSSTC was held in Bali, Indonesia in February 2008. The meeting reviewed the existing MoU between the two organisations. Both parties appreciated the respective roles and the programmes held as a joint collaborative project and agreed to extend the MoU for a period of another year.

Programme Activities

Currently the main thematic areas of the programme activities are 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:

Access to Land

As a follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), CIRDAP signed an agreement with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to conduct a study on 'Creating a Platform for Access to Land and Other Natural Resource by the Rural Poor in Four Asian Countries' in 2007. It was continued in 2008.

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 improved access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups and to create a database collating existing information.

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To assimilate and consolidate knowledge on access to land by the rural poor people in the four selected countries of the region;
- To enhance capacity, through linkage with FAO TCP, of selected institutions in the selected countries to analyse data and review progress on security of tenure and access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly by women and indigenous populations and other marginalised groups;
- To hold national and regional dialogues among governments, civil society organisations, in particular the International Land Coalition (ILC) member organisations, on land issues sharing knowledge thus generated; and
- To 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 frameworks of the participating countries.

A planning workshop was conducted during 28-30 January 2008. Three National workshops were organised under the project toward the end of the year. The country researchers prepared the first draft of the reports, which were presented and discussed in the national workshops organised during September 5 in Bangladesh 16-17 September in Nepal and 20-21 November 2008 in Philippines.

Strengthening Capacities of Organisations

Strengthening Capacities of Organisations of the Poor - Experiences in Asia (SCOPE) project was supported by IFAD for funding and implemented in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines. It was jointly implemented by CIRDAP and ANGOC since June 2004 and completed in November 2007.

The major components of the SCOPE Project were:

- To review and document IFAD and CSO Best Practices in Building Rural Poor Organisations and Coalitions in the Asian region
- To conduct and assess in-country capacity-building workshops and activities for IFAD project staff, CBOs and CSOs in five selected Asian countries; and
- To install an effective project management system to ensure that desired project outputs are achieved.

The objective of the project was to increase the capacity of IFAD and its partners to: (a) Design and implement sustainable CBO development actions; and (b) Promote up-scaling and policy linkages of CBOs through their clusters and federations.

Final SCOPE completion Report and Audited Report were sent to IFAD in March 2008.

Capacity Building

In line with the mandate of CIRDAP, and felt-needs of the CIRDAP member countries, Training Division, with its defined role to assist member countries in the efforts of human resources development and capacity building of senior and mid-level functionaries, planned and projected 12 programmes and workshops for the year 2008. These were regional training programmes, collaborative activities, exposure visit programmes, etc.

Training Division established strong links with the existing partners like NIRD, India; NCRD, Pakistan; Commonwealth Secretariat in London and Non-Aligned Movement-Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) in Jakarta, Indonesia. Likewise, BIRD/Lucknow and NABARD have been in close cooperation with CIRDAP in conduct of exposure visit programmes for the last several years.

Among the focused areas in capacity building were: Geographic Information Systems (GIS); Application in Disaster Management; Renewable Energy; Sufficiency Economy and Poverty Alleviation; Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects; Planning and Management of Agriculture and Rural Development Projects; Successful Models in Capacity Development and Microcredit..

Sharing Knowledge

CIRDAP is mandated to act as an information dissemination focal point for its member countries. It has been publishing reports, newsletters/journals, offering courses on IT, undertaking audio-visual documentaries and providing library services.

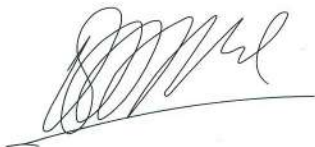
In the recent times, with the upsurge of digital technology, IT has emerged as one of the most effective tools for intervention in development. As such, CIRDAP has also been trying to strengthen its IT base at its headquarters. At the 26th CIRDAP Executive Meeting held in Philippines, India has pledged support to establish a full IT infrastructure and data centre at the new CIRDAP International Conference Centre at its headquarters. Currently feasibility study is being carried out and cost estimates are being prepared.

SOCSEA

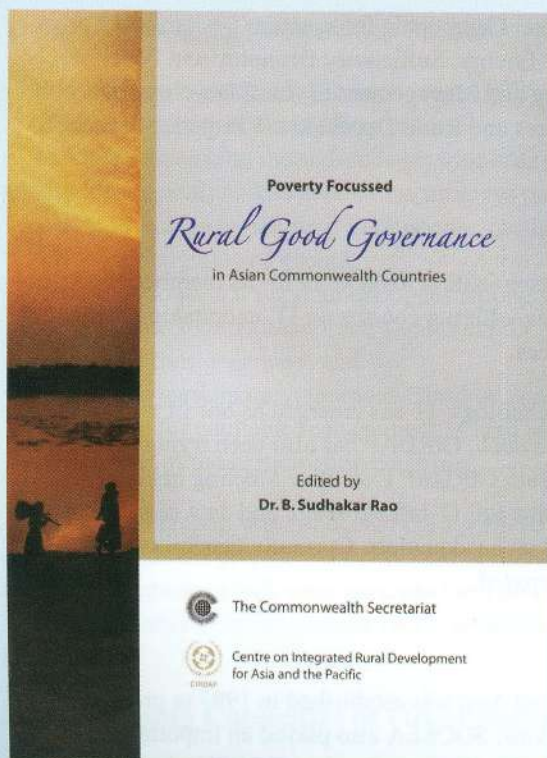
The Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia was established in 1997 to promote CIRDAP among Southeast Asian and Pacific nations. SOCSEA also played an important role in collaborative programmes with NAM-CSSTC. During the reporting year SOCSEA has conducted four regional and five in-country training programmes.

The Road Ahead

The year 2008 also marked a watershed in the annuals of CIRDAP by focusing on ICT. At the Special Ministers Meeting held in India, the CIRDAP member countries shared their collective expertise on the use of ICT for effective implementation of rural development programmes. They have been very explicit that ICT can be of a great help in several fronts. First, ICT can help to improve accountability, transparency and good governance in the public sector. Secondly, ICT can help expand market access to products made by rural producers and self-help groups in order to promote sustainable livelihood. Finally, there are regional issues such as environmental degradation, climate change, bird flu pandemic, human trafficking etc. which also require regional cooperation. Here too, ICT can help in tracking down the problems, sharing knowledge and synchronising policies among the countries concerned.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal
Director General



Poverty Focused Rural Good Governance in Asian Commonwealth Countries

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Price: \$20 for CMCs and \$25 for Others

Rural good governance does not mean only rural growth - it means distribution of income to mitigate distortions in rural-urban dichotomy and trust. That means macropolicies and microlevel implementation should take people's voice as the cornerstone of achieving the results. Rural development is an essential part of overall country development. But if good governance is not ensured in the rural and deprived hilly and backward regions, rural development cannot result in equity, justice and growth.

Rural good governance is not an isolated entity. It is very much related with rural

decentralisation, policy of the government, rural institutional restructuring, participation of the poor in policy making and economic activity, and the needed information and communication facility to improve the governance system. There needs to be a result-based monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with people's participation, to ensure good governance.

For poverty alleviation and rural development, good governance in rural arena should be a sort of mandatory provision. In case, rural governance policy is not properly formulated and rural government structures and people's institutions are not properly set up, the grassroots will not be able to take part in the economic activities. Ultimately the distance will grow between the government and the people, particularly poor households. In that case, one cannot expect expected outcomes out of the development activities.

Asia-Pacific countries are struggling to achieve a higher degree of perfection in respect of human rights, political pluralism, institutional efficiency and responsiveness of public sector, rule of law, freedom of expression etc., the core characteristics of good governance. Decentralisation is the logical application of the core characteristics of good governance at sub-national and local level.

This publication is the report on the workshop on Sharing Successful Experiences on Poverty Focussed Rural Good Governance in Asian Commonwealth Countries held on 27-31 May 2006 at CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh. In the quest of advocacy for good governance in the Asia-Pacific region, it has been the third successive regional workshop of the Commonwealth Secretariat and CIRDAP.

The experts at the workshop highlighted the fact that experiences on governance and decentralisation for rural development and poverty alleviation varied across the region in scope and content. The participants have gained valuable cross-country knowledge and experience through the ensured dialogue on the concept of good governance, ways to influence reforms and restructuring local government Institutions and ensure people's participation in rural development along with other stakeholders such as NGOs, CBOs and private sector entrepreneurs.

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Policy Body Meetings

Special GC Meeting and Ministerial Retreat

A Special Meeting of the Governing Council (GC) was hosted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and organised in collaboration with CIRDAP on 24 June 2008 at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The Ministerial Meeting preceded a Ministerial Retreat which was held on 25-26 June 2008 at the same venue in the capital.

Vice-President of India H.E. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurated the Special Meeting. Ministers who are members of the Governing Council (GC) of CIRDAP and/or their representatives from all the CIRDAP Member Counter (CMCs) except Lao PDR and Vietnam attended the meeting.



Group photograph of Special Governing Council Meeting

The main agendas of the meeting were to review the preparations for the Second Ministerial Meeting of Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific to be held in 2009 in Dhaka, and appointment of the new Director General of the Centre and to review the activities of the Centre.

H.E. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, in his inaugural address, mentioned that poverty has a rural face in this region and thus rural development and poverty alleviation are two sides of the same coin here. He mentioned that since agrarian and rural development issues are inherently political in nature, policy-makers should ensure that the interaction of politics with policy is constructive and synergistic.

H.E. Mr. Nasser C. Pangandaman, Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, Government of the Philippines and Chairperson of the Sixteenth Governing Council of CIRDAP stated that inspiring to observe the growing interest of the countries of this region in CIRDAP. He said that CIRDAP

has been trying to define its role in the changing global context. As a part of it, preparations are now being made for the Second Ministerial Meeting in 2009.

H.E. Shri Raguvansh Prasad Singh, Honourable Minister for Rural Development, Government of India, said that the Ministry of Rural Development has been acting as catalyst effecting the change in rural areas through implementation of a wide spectrum of development programmes such as Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna, which are aimed at poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development and social security.

H.E. Smt Suuryakanta J. Patil, Minister of State for Rural Development, Government of India, H.E. Shri. Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Minister of State for Rural Development, Government of India, Ms. Rita Sharma, Honourable Secretary for Rural Development of Government of India, also spoke at the inaugural function. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, gave the vote of thanks.

During the business session, the date for the 2009 Asia-Pacific ministerial meeting was set for 8-12 November 2009. The meeting was also informed about the regional policy dialogue to be hosted by the government of Malaysia in March 2009. In the meeting Dr. Durga P. Paudyal of Nepal was re-appointed as the Director General of CIRDAP for another term of four years (2008-2012). He has been in this post during the term 2004-2008.

CIRDAP was established in 1979 by FAO/UN with its headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Centre is broadly mandated to facilitate the provision of services that influence policy formulation and programme action towards rural development in its member countries.

Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Livelihood

Ministers and senior officials from the Asia-Pacific countries adopted the Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Livelihood during a Ministerial Retreat held in New Delhi during 25-26 June 2008. The Ministerial Retreat on Rural Development for the Asia-Pacific region was jointly organised by Government of India and CIRDAP in the capital.

H.E. Dr Raghuwansh Prasad Singh, the Honourable Minister of Rural Development of Government of India presided over the Retreat. Ministers and/or their representatives were from the following CIRDAP member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.



Vice President of India inaugurating the retreat

The theme for the Ministerial Retreat was Sustainable Livelihood with special focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Women Empowerment in the context of rural development.

In the Declaration the Ministers strongly reiterated their commitment to rural development, to eradicate poverty and promote gender equality in the region.



Dr. Rita Sharma (L) making a presentation at the retreat

While appreciating the efforts of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, in effectively implementing various rural development programmes, the members noted that some of the member countries had made significant progress in poverty reduction.

The declaration agreed upon taking some affirmative action in CMCs on the improvement of rural livelihood empowerment of rural women and leveraging ICT for rural development, in terms of policy and strategy. Some of these include promoting regional cooperation in marketing of rural products, promoting CT to read, trial areas, promoting gender equality and the strategies to achieve them. The declaration called for simple affordable and cost-effective technology with maximum coverage in rural areas.

The Retreat began with opening remarks from the Director General of CIRDAP Dr. Durga P. Paudyal. The Honourable Minister for Rural Development Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh set the tone of the Retreat and Dr. Rita Sharma, the Secretary of Rural Development conducted the programme.

Two keynote papers were presented during the Business Session: 'Leveraging ICT for Effective Implementation of Rural Development Programmes' by Dr. B. K. Gairola, Director General of NIC, Government of India and 'Gender Equality and Empowerment in Rural Development Programmes' by Ms. Renana Jhabvala, National Coordinator for SEWA, India. The presentations were followed by lively discussion among the participants.

Country statements were made by all the participating countries. The Ministerial Retreat concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration by the Ministers of Rural Development of CIRDAP member countries.

The Ministerial Retreat and the Special Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India on 24 June 2008.

Ministerial Retreat on Rural Development- CIRDAP New Delhi Declaration

25th June 2008

1. We, the Ministers Officials representing the Member Countries of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), assembled on the occasion of the Special Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council and Ministerial Retreat, hosted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and jointly organized with CIRDAP during 24-26 June 2008, reiterate our commitment to rural development, to enhance sustainable livelihoods, promote gender equality and leveraging information and communication technology for alleviation of poverty in the region.
2. We appreciate the efforts of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, in making the economic growth processes more inclusive by reaching out to millions of poor households in the rural areas, through the implementation of special and unique programmes and projects for sustainable development, rural employment generation, rural e-connectivity, natural resources regeneration and management, rural infrastructure, minor irrigation, etc through a gender responsive approach. The Government's contribution in bridging the rural-urban digital divide by bringing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to the door-steps of the rural household is highly appreciated. India's commendable job in promoting self-help groups of women and empowering them through member-based organization, micro-credit and enterprise-based activities together with strengthening of the decentralized governance system makes the Indian experience a model worth emulating. This Retreat has enhanced the knowledge base of the Member Countries.

While recalling that

- the Dhaka Declaration on Rural Development of 9th April 1987 to meet the basic needs, the hopes and aspirations of the rural poor, felt that low subsistence levels of living would adversely affect socio-economic development in the region; and
- the expression of political will and reiteration of commitment to a dynamic pro-poor sustainable rural development policy would go a long way in improving the quality of life of the poor in rural areas.

Recognising that

- some CIRDAP member countries have already made significant progress in rural development, generating sustainable livelihoods, employment, gender equality and empowerment, infrastructure and social sector growth;
- rural livelihoods can be made sustainable through social mobilization, self-employment and provision of appropriate backward and forward linkages;
- ICT helps nations to achieve development goals effectively, enhances the capabilities of the poor to be a part of an emerging knowledge society, strengthens their integration into a market economy, speeds up the production processes and facilitates faster communications between individuals, groups, enterprises, communities and government;
- Member Countries at different stages and levels of development in ICT utilization are trying to address the problem of 'digital divide' in rural and urban areas for greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in governance.

We, therefore, call for the following affirmative actions in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) to improve livelihoods and development in the rural areas.

Policy

Governments should foster gender equality and adopt suitable measures for women empowerment and the empowerment of rural poor.

- Governments should encourage both public and private sector to expand market access of products made by rural artisans and self-help groups in order to promote sustainable livelihoods;

- Governments should review the existing laws and regulations for creating an enabling environment for greater use of ICT in rural areas for e-governance, delivery of services to and empowering citizens to access information;
- The CMCs should encourage greater regional cooperation in the area of innovations and sharing of knowledge, best practices in women empowerment, marketing of rural products and leveraging of ICT for rural development.

Strategy

- Community access to ICT may be expanded through successful e-community models such as information kiosks, wired villages, agriculture marketing portals, computerization of land records, grameen phones, etc. Technologies should be affordable, cost effective, simple and user friendly. They should use local resources including renewable energy sources wherever possible.
- Women's access to factors of production such as entitlement to land, natural resources, credit, knowledge and technology should be enhanced. Special efforts need to be made to increase their capacities through social mobilization, education, skill development and training. ICT should be effectively use to create awareness, promote equality and counter social prejudices against women;
- For improving sustainable livelihoods and increasing incomes of rural households, suitable technologies, product design and standards, quality control, value addition need to be ensured. Appropriate market supply chains and regional networks for marketing through trade fairs, exhibitions etc. of rural products need to be further developed;
- Collaboration and networking among rural development institutions, agriculture research institutions, community health institutions, universities and women's organizations are necessary and should be promoted among CMCs.

Role of CIRDAP:

- CIRDAP should further enhance its role in promoting sustainable rural livelihoods, empowering women and leveraging ICT through providing a platform for exchange of ideas, sharing experiences and best practices, dissemination of information and facilitating networks, including marketing networks, among the CMCs for generating knowledge, training and capacity building.
- CIRDAP should work in partnership with other regional organizations such as SAARC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and ECO.
- CIRDAP should make efforts to expand its membership to other countries of the region especially those who were founders but have not subsequently joined the organization.

We resolve to support CIRDAP through increased commitment and augmentation of its resources to achieve the policy and strategy agreed upon as above.

Text signed by:

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ehsan Zia

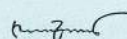


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Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Anwarul Iqbal



Adviser

Ministry for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

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H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup

Deputy Minister

Minister of Rural and Regional Development

Government of Malaysia



Mr. Tin Htut Oo

Director General

Department of Agricultural Planning

Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation

Government of the Union of Myanmar



H.E. Dr. Durgesh Man Singh

Ambassador of Nepal to India

Government of Nepal




Mr. Mohammad Saleem Khan Jhagra

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Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

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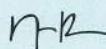


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Secretary

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Minister

Minister for Agricultural Development

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Mr. Chan Chiumkanokchai

International Agricultural Economics Specialist

Office of Agricultural Economics

Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives

Government of the Kingdom of Thailand



Technical Committee Meeting in Nepal

The Twenty-Fourth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-24) was held at Dhulikhel, Nepal from 5 to 7 May 2008.

TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) attended the meeting. Also present in the meeting were CIRDAP-IRD expert (Japan), members from Professional institute like ICIMOD, NABARD, NAM-CSSTC, Commonwealth Secretariat and members of the CIRDAP Evaluation Committee from Malaysia, India and Iran.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Dhulikhel Mountain Resort, in the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal on 5 May 2008.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General CIRDAP, while welcoming the delegates to the TC-24 meeting mentioned the present year as historic due to the upcoming Special SC meeting to be held at Delhi, the evaluation committee of CIRDAP undertaking its task, review of policies and programmes of rural development in the CMCs in the backdrop of the Ministerial meeting proposed for 2009.

He expressed his sincere thanks to the Honourable Minister and State Minister, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal for gracing the occasion.

He recalled the important suggestions of TC-20, where a new strategy paper of CIRDAP was placed, in which some far reaching implications-taking advantage of policy bodies, the need for enhanced regional cooperation and initiation of Policy dialogue etc. were agreed upon. He also mentioned about the Ministerial retreat being hosted by the Government of India on ICT with focus on rural livelihoods for sustainable development and the proposed policy dialogue in Malaysia.

Mr. Bishnu Nath Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development extended his sincere thanks to the TC members and other renowned professional institutions for attending the meeting and mentioned that since CIRDAP member countries are not at the same level of development, the delegates will deliberate on the problems facing these countries like the challenges of globalization, food crisis etc. He wished all the delegates a comfortable stay in Nepal.

Mr. Kasem Prasutsangchan, Chairman of TC-23 greeted the delegates on behalf of Government of Thailand and expressed thanks to the government of Nepal and special thanks to LDTA for hosting the TC-24 at Nepal. He mentioned that TC is the best forum to deliberate on issues of poverty alleviation and to deliver technical inputs to CIRDAP.

H.E. Mr. Navin Kumar Bishwakarma, State Minister for Local Development, Government of Nepal briefly outlined the role of the Ministry of Local Development. He said that strengthening of local government with the view to make locally elected bodies capable institutions is the primary aim. While appreciating the role of CIRDAP in this sphere he said that it would be a welcome gesture on the part of development partners and other regional bodies if they extend their support to CIRDAP to realize its vision and mission.

H.E. Dev Prasad Gurung, Minister for Local Development, Government of Nepal, in welcoming Excellencies and delegates said that currently Nepal is seriously engaged in preparing the Interim Development Plan focusing on post conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery, generating employment infrastructure development and promoting social inclusion. Another aspect that received government attention is the restructuring of the Local Government. A federal system of government will fully devolve powers of local bodies promoting democratic participation, transparency and accountability. He appreciated the contribution made by CIRDAP toward national actions and poverty alleviation in member countries and declared the meeting open.

Mr. Babu Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, LDTA, Nepal proposed a vote of thanks and was grateful to the Honourable Minister and State Minister for sparing their valuable time to grace the occasion. He thanked the Director General CIRDAP for choosing Nepal as a venue for TC-24 meeting at a time when Nepal is restructuring itself to build a New Nepal. He hoped that the deliberation of TC-24 would go a long way to facilitate the process of improving local governance and urged CIRDAP member countries to be united to meet the aspirations of the people in Asia and Pacific region.



Delegates and participants of the Technical Committee along with the chief guest and special guest

At the Technical session, the delegate from Government of Nepal was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of TC-24, as proposed by the delegate from Bangladesh and seconded by delegates from Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The outgoing Chairperson of TC-23 from Thailand congratulated the New TC Chairperson and wished him success.

The main agendas for discussion during the Meeting were: Follow-up Action on the Suggestions of the 23rd Technical Committee Meeting (TC-23), Director General's report on CIRDAP activities. The Role of CIRDAP in the Changing Global Context Presentation and discussion on Projects/Programmes activities of CLIs and future opportunities (New projects/activities/ideas), Review progress of Country focused study under the title 'An assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIROAP Member Countries: Future Opportunities for CIROAP', Presentation and discussion on the ToR of CIRDAP Evaluation Committee and suggestions and recommendations, discussion on the Ministerial Retreat and Special GC meeting in India in June 2008.

Following are the suggestions made by the committee:

Suggestion 1/TC-24

Commonwealth Secretariat advised CIRDAP of the need to extend its involvement to benefit Pacific Island nations. In noting the importance of training, the focus on capacity building of CLIs is more relevant and suggested CIRDAP to organise a meeting of all heads of institutions so that capacity development in these training institutions, strengthening networks between these and CIRDAP could be developed and strengthened under the funding support of Commonwealth Secretariat.

Suggestion 2/TC-24

It was left that there is an urgent need to strengthen capacity development of training institutions. It was also suggested that CIRDAP has to publish successful cases and good practices as training materials of respect CMCs.

Suggestion 3/TC-24

It is suggested to have a designated section or at least a column for CIRDAP and CLIs activities on CLIs websites.

While discussing the Role of CIRDAP in the Changing Global Context.

Suggestion 4/TC-24

CIRDAP has to accept new challenges that are coming up in various fields like issues related to rice, fresh water etc. which need to be given attention.

Suggestion 5/TC-24

IRD may remain a central theme, issues based approaches and networking etc. can go hand in hand.

Suggestion 6/TC-24

It was decided to adopt the theme 'working together for sustainable rural livelihoods' for the Ministerial Meeting 2009.

Suggestion 7/TC-24

Bangladesh suggested extending the time for the presentation of CLI activities. If necessary TC meetings may be extended to four days, so that country presentation can be thoroughly discussed and identified areas for regional cooperation.

Suggestion 8/TC-24

Commonwealth Secretariat agreed in principle, to partner with CIRDAP in advancing capacity development and networking of CLIs and host a retreat for Heads and Deputies of CLIs.

Government of Iran agreed to host the next TC-25 meeting in 2009. At the conclusion of the meeting the report was adopted by the Technical Committee.

Appropriate Technology *for* Rural Women

Report of the Regional Consultation



CENTRE ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Appropriate Technology *for* Rural Women

Report of the Regional Consultation

CIRDAP Study Series 203, June 2008

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This report contains the findings from an action research project that was undertaken by CIRDAP in its two member countries- Myanmar and Pakistan, with the hypothesis that technologies for rural women would provide immense potential to serve as an effective tool for increasing the living standards of the poor women through increasing their productivity and income.

Technology has been shown to be a powerful force in promoting social and economic development. New techniques can substantially increase the efficiency of production, relieve the drudgery of manual work and make possible the wide distribution of basic goods and services for women through increasing the efficiency of their traditional technologies and opening up new ways of income.

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Visit CIRDAP Website at

www.cirdap.org.sg

CIRDAP In-House Annual Review and Planning Seminar

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) holds its In-House Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) each year to review divisional/unit activities of the previous year and to set targets for the next year. The forum also discusses issues related to general activities of the Centre and explores suitable agenda and inputs for the forthcoming Governing Council (GC), Executive Committee (EC) and Technical Committee (TC) meetings. With participation from both professional and general staff, divisions/units make their plan in consultation and in association with all staff-members.

CIARPS 2007 was held during 23-24 January 2008 at the CIRDAP Headquarters. The seminar reviewed the Centre's activities, programmes/projects conducted during last year and formulated action plan for the year 2008. It also reviewed the suggestions/recommendations of CIARPS-2006 and the preceding TC/EC/GC meetings. The Sub-Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) also presented their progress report for 2007 and the work plan for 2008.



CIARPS 2007 being inaugurated

The inauguration of CIARPS-2007 was held at a brief ceremony on 23 January 2008 at the CIRDAP auditorium. Mr. A.T.M. Fazlul Karim, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RD&C), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD&C) of Bangladesh inaugurated the seminar. Mr. Khairul Kabir, Director General a.i. of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), CIRDAP's link institution in Bangladesh also attended the session as special guest. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Md. Ischak, Assistant to the Head of SOCSEA, Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director ICD, Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Director Research, and all other professionals and technical staff also attended the inaugural session.

The session began with the welcome address by the CIARPS Coordinator, Mr. Majibar Rahman, Special Officer, Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit of CIRDAP. Mr. Rahman welcomed all participants and the Chief Guest to CIARPS 2007, and specially appreciated the Chief Guest and Special Guest for being present in the session. He briefly highlighted the major activities, events and milestones of CIRDAP that occurred during the year 2007.

Special Guest Mr. Khairul Kabir, in his address, mentioned that CIRDAP plays an important role in rural development and poverty alleviation in the member countries. The contemporary issues and needs of the CMCs are reflected in CIRDAP's programmes. However, poverty being a combined effect of multiple factors remains to be a major threat to the lives of people of this region. Thus the mission and vision of CIRDAP, although very relevant, have to be synchronised with the present scenario.



CIARPS 2007 in progress

The Chief Guest Mr. A.T.M. Fazlul Karim, in his speech, mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh is proud to be the host of CIRDAP, and his ministry is privileged to be the contact ministry for the Centre in Dhaka. He paid homage to the late Akhter Hamid Khan for his valuable contribution towards evolving the concept of integrated rural development in this region. He mentioned that CIRDAP needs to be involved more in the national-level activities and to publicise them. He mentioned that CIRDAP is already involved in the preparation of its Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). He appreciated the CIRDAP project 'Coordination of Four IRD projects of Government of Bangladesh' and hoped that more such innovative proposals would be initiated by CIRDAP.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal thanked the Chief Guest for ensuring his all-out support to the activities of CIRDAP. Welcoming everybody to the CIARPS, he presented a brief background of the seminar for the benefit of the Chief Guest. He mentioned that while re-aligning the Centre's priorities in the present context, emphasis should be given on one of core and primary focus areas that is assisting the national-level institutions. He especially pointed out to finding out ways to assist BARD in its multi-faceted activities. He mentioned about the third regional policy dialogue to be hosted by Malaysia sometime soon. He also invited all the participants to extensively take part in the discussion sessions which would really bring out the spirit of CIARPS.

Business Session

The Business Sessions of CIARPS-2007 were moderated by the Director General and participated by all staff of CIRDAP. The two-day long seminar reviewed the follow-up actions on suggestions and recommendations of CIARPS-2006, progress of work of the Centre during 2007 and work

plan for 2008; follow-up actions on GC-16 and TC-23 followed by extensive discussions by the participants.

The Business Session covered the following five agenda items:

1. Follow-up actions on the recommendations and suggestions of the last CIARPS-2006.
2. Reviewing the progress of CIRDAP activities for the year 2007 and formulation of work plan for 2008.
3. Reviewing the progress of SOCSEA activities and formulation of work plan for 2008.
4. Follow-up actions on the decisions, recommendations and suggestions of GC-16, EC-26, and TC-23 meetings.
5. Any other matter.

Under Agenda Item 1, Mr. Majibar Rahman, Coordinator, presented a report on the recommendations and suggestions of the CIARPS-2006. The presentation was followed by extensive discussion.

Under Agenda Item 2, papers were presented by each division 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 Item 3, Mr. Md. Ischak, Assistant to the Head of SOCSEA, presented the progress of activities of SOCSEA during 2007 and formulation of its work plan for 2008.

Each division of CIRDAP made a work plan for the year 2008 which was presented and agreed in principle for implementation during the year 2008.

Under Agenda Items 4, Mr. Majibar Rahman, CIARPS Coordinator, presented a report on the follow-up actions on the decisions, recommendations and suggestions of GC-16, EC-26, and TC-23 meetings. After discussion, these were finalised.

Suggestions/Recommendations

The major suggestions for immediate action, for implementation during 2008 are summarised as below:

1. Vision paper for Evaluation of CIRDAP: CIRDAP was established in 1979 in the contemporary national and international policy context. At that time, at the national level, government was the main agency for rural development policy development and implementation, while at the international level FAO had taken the leading role for providing technical support. There has been sea-change in both contexts since then. Hence there is a need to evaluate CIRDAP from its strategic and institutional perspectives, such as:
 - 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 at an operational level.
 - Institutional linkage with other inter-governmental organisations such as ECO, SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, ICIMOD, UNESCAP, ADB, 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.)
 - Developing CIRDAP as knowledge development Centre for rural development and poverty alleviation

Taking into consideration of the above mentioned areas/facts, each division is suggested to prepare a vision paper for the Evaluation Team.

2. Personnel Development Policy of CIRDAP is included as a ToR of the Evaluation Committee. Administration and Finance Division is suggested to prepare a paper identifying the inconsistencies if any for presentation to the Evaluation Committee.
In order to attract better professionals/staff, pay structure of CIRDAP may be reviewed in line with other UN bodies.
3. IT support to meet in-house need is quite laudable, but it has scope of enhancing and establishing better linkage with the CLIs and CMCs. ICC is likely to be built by 2009. ICD is suggested to prepare a proposal covering the need of the International Conference Centre. Local IT experts and BEU may be contacted for formulating a comprehensive proposal.
4. Training Division conducts a good number of training courses each year at both in-country and regional levels. It appears from current trend of CIRDAP activities that activities in Training Division are expanding significantly. A number of new initiatives have also been taken in the Research Division. Training Division is suggested to develop and build CIRDAP in-house capacity in conducting training. A roster of training experts from CLIs may be kept ready at hand for their utilisation in different training courses. It was also suggested to prepare an impact report on training courses conducted each year by the Training Division for circulation as like other reports of CIRDAP.
5. ICD is suggested to provide more publications, reports and documents to SOCSEA. As it is very expensive to send reports and publications to SOSCEA in bulk, it was suggested to take up the matter with the local embassy whether they can assist CIRDAP in sending publications to SOCSEA, Indonesia.
6. All divisions are suggested for a forward planning for Ministerial Meeting in 2009.
7. All divisions are suggested for a forward planning for Ministerial Retreat in 2008 in India.
8. The issue of re-designation of staff was raised in the meeting to make it fit with the activities and designation. For Example Computer Programmer may be better designated as IT System Manager/Officer.
9. It was suggested to make all correspondence with ASEAN Secretariat through CMCs who are members of ASEAN countries.
10. 'Evaluation of CIRDAP' is suggested as an Agenda of the next TC-24 Meeting to be held in Nepal.
11. Action research plan needs to be initiated in PPD.
12. Strategic initiatives/re-orientation of CIRDAP to link up or keep pace with donor agencies.
13. Tentative date for TC-24 in Nepal is suggested on 5-7 May 2008, with two days for meeting and one day for field visit.
14. The proposal of creating PRMU was not fulfilled. It was discussed, what should be the role of PRMU and whether the structure of PRMU needs to be re-thought. It was suggested that PRMU can well be a navigator.

Concluding Session

At the concluding part of the seminar, Mr. Md. Ischak thanked all the participants and stressed the importance of sharing the vision and plans for the future among the staff-members in a way that strengthens the operations of the organisation as a whole.

Dr. Paudyal mentioned that CIARPS is a strong forum or platform where all staff can participate, voice their opinion and learn from the each other. He also mentioned that this year it is particularly important to get the organisation into thinking and planning as a whole, in light of the upcoming ministerial retreat in India.

It is also time to plan for organising the second Ministerial meeting to be held in 2009. In general, in 2009, the organisation should look forward towards a bigger dream of a larger and stronger network, with more activities and more impact, he said. And now it is the time-work towards achieving that dream and putting words into action, he added.

Finally, Dr. Paudyal thanked all for participating in CIARPS and concluded the seminar.

Research

- Researchers Planning Workshop on Access to Land
- Project Monitoring Visits
- Thematic Group Meeting on Poverty Reduction Strategy on Land Policy
- CIRDAP's Input for PRS
- Redefining the Role of CIRDAP
- Seminar on Access to Land by Rural Poor in Nepal
- An Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives in CIRDAP Member Countries

Focused Areas

- Knowledge generation
- Policy dialogue
- Access to land
- Natural resources
- Tenurial security
- Land distribution
- Redefining role of CIRDAP
- Rural development initiatives



Research Division

Research Division performed various activities which were carried over from the previous year. A brief review of the activities undertaken during the year is given below:

Access to Land

CIRDAP in collaboration with IFAD initiated a study in October 2007 in four countries on Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in Four Asian Countries. As a start-up of the project, a researcher's planning workshop was organised at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka from 28 to 30 January, 2008.

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 improved access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups and to create a database collating existing information.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To assimilate and consolidate knowledge on access to land by the rural poor people in the four selected countries of the region;
- To enhance capacity, through linkage with FAO TCP, of selected institutions in the selected countries to analyse data and review progress on security of tenure and access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly by women and indigenous populations and other marginalised groups;
- To hold national and regional dialogues among governments, civil society organisations, in particular the International Land Coalition (ILC) member organisations, on land issues sharing knowledge thus generated; and
- To 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 frameworks of the participating countries.



The workshop in progress

Major Activities identified

In-depth country assessments and analysis of poor people's access to land and other natural resources and tenurial security based on collection, assessment, identification of gaps in information on issues and topics concerned, building on information, data and assessments available through the ILC, lessons and experiences of IFAD supported projects in the selected countries;

- Development of key indicators to monitor progress with respect to access to and tenurial security by the rural poor people;
- Development of proposal of basic database on access to land and other natural resources, particularly with focus on decentralising this capacity and involving local governments for information gathering;
- Country dialogues to discuss the findings of the country assessment with focus on issues and constraints, and way ahead for monitoring progress, consolidation of knowledge, and advocacy involving the relevant stakeholders in the process;
- Consolidation of the outcomes of the four country dialogues into a combined assessment of the situations of the four countries;
- A regional dialogue among various stakeholders during the CIRDAP 2009 GC to share experiences; and
- Presentation of the main recommendations at the regional policy dialogue in 2009 Governing Council.

Inaugural Session of Planning Workshop

Land Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh Inaugurated the planning workshop. The workshop was participated in by the researchers of all the participating countries. In addition, Mr. Wim Polman, representative from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones, Director of Department of Agrarian Reform, Government of the Philippines and Chairman, Executive Committee of CIRDAP and Mr. Shamsul Huda, Executive Director of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and representative from the International Land Coalition (ILC) in Bangladesh, also participated in the planning workshop. Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Director Research of CIRDAP and the project Director, coordinated and conducted the workshop.

The researchers who participated in from the four countries were: Dr. Selim Raihan, Associate Professor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dr. Yulfita Raharjo, Ex-Senior Researcher, Centre for Population Studies, Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), Indonesia; Dr. Jagannath Adhikari, Programme Coordinator (Development Studies), Nepal Development Research Institute, Nepal; and Mr. Carlos Bernard Abad O. Santos, Philippines.

Mr. Md. Mosleh Uddin, Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Land, Government of Bangladesh, inaugurated the researchers planning workshop on 28 January 2008 at the CIRDAP HQs in Dhaka as the chief guest. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP chaired the inaugural session.

The Chief Guest in his inaugural speech, focused on the linkage between poverty and access to land. He mentioned that a large majority of the rural poor in the Asia-Pacific Region who depend on agriculture for their livelihood have inadequate access to natural resources, especially land, and suffer from insecurity of tenure. He also commented that adequate and secure access to land and other natural resources is essential for reduction of rural poverty.

He expressed his pleasure as this project will be the first follow-up of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) and finally he, on behalf of the Ministry

of Land, Government of Bangladesh, committed to extend his cooperation and support to the project.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP while welcoming the participants, highlighted the linkage of ICARRD with the project. Dr. Paudyal hoped that the project would come up with some basic indicators and a database for monitoring progress with respect to access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor, country reports on access to land and other natural resources including common property as a consolidated assessment of their position.

In the first technical session, four country presentations were made by the researchers of the participating countries on the draft outline of the country studies. The study outlines for each country was finalised in the second technical session with inputs from the participants. A common set of guidelines to conduct the research in each country was also agreed upon, based on which the revised study outlines would be prepared. Director General, CIRDAP concluded the meeting thanking everyone for their inputs and researchers for their commitment to the study.

In her wrapping up remarks, Ms. Susana Leones, promised help and support to CIRDAP for the project. She emphasised the particular issues to be highlighted in the project in each country, which could be taken up by other donors.

Project Monitoring Visits in Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines

Director (Research) and also the Project Director of the project Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and Other Natural Resources in Four Asian Countries visited Nepal from 8 to 11th May 2008, on a project monitoring visit. She met with the researcher from Nepal, Dr. Jagannath Adhikari in Kathmandu and discussed the progress of the project. She also travelled with him to Pokhara, to one of the areas selected as a case study. She held a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the villagers in a pre-selected village, familiarising herself with the system of land tenure, community forestry, system of labour exchange and other issues pertinent to access to land.

The Philippines visit took place during 10-16 June 2008. There she met with the country researcher, Mr. Carlos Abad Santos and Susana Leones, OIC Undersecretary for Support Services and Concurrent Direct, Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). Both accompanied Director Research to Davao City, Mindanao to visit some banana plantations which were sold to the workers through the land bank and being managed by the beneficiaries themselves. The visit also included a community based forestry management project and a meeting with the Indigenous Peoples' Commission on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples.



Director Research having focus group discussions with villagers in Pokhara



A plantation worker (agrarian reform beneficiary) presenting activities

The monitoring in Bangladesh has been continuous. In addition, the Research Associate, Mr. Iftekharul Haque, participated in a field visit highlighting two case studies on issues relating to access to land. One is related to community management of fisheries improving the poor people's access to resources, and the other is on the access to land and land rights of the Adivashies (IP). Here, lack of awareness of land rights and land transfer procedures were found to be a key element in the gradual loss of land by the IP. The government meanwhile claims taxation on this land. The government acquisitions of land for reserve forests are also an issue.

Participation in Thematic Group Meeting on PRSP Phase II

Director Research of CIRDAP was invited to participate in the policy formulation process and incorporate major concerns on access to land by the poor, and also on the security of tenure of farmers and on the importance of government khas land distribution, by the planning commission.

CIRDAP's Input for PRS in Bangladesh

The Road Map for the rural non-farm sector in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) of the Government of Bangladesh- the report from Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives, was prepared by the CIRDAP Research Division and submitted to the agency concerned. Some of the findings in the report have been incorporated in the 2nd phase of the PRS and under implementation by the Government.

CIRDAP was the lead agency for preparation of this report in collaboration with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Rural Development Academy (RDA) and Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB).

CIRDAP Evaluation Committee on Redefining Role of CIRDAP

A five-member Evaluation Committee has been constituted as per the decision of the CIRDAP policy bodies [Governing Council (GC-16) and Executive Committee (EC-26)] meeting held in Manila in 2007. The policy bodies also approved the Terms of Reference based on which the committee will recommend direction and a strategic action plan to further expedite the Centre's activities in the future for the cause of rural development in the region.

The findings of the evaluation committee will be presented and discussed in the proposed ministerial meeting to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2009. It may be mentioned here that CIRDAP was established in 1979 in the contemporary national and international policy context. At the national level, government was the main agency for rural development policy formulation and implementation, while at the international level, FAO had taken the leading role for providing technical support. There have been major changes in both contexts. Hence it was strongly felt necessary to evaluate CIRDAP from its strategic and institutional perspectives, such as:

- 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 at an operational level
- Institutional linkage with other inter-governmental organisations such as ECO, SAARC, BMSTEC, ASEAN, ICIMOD, GMR etc.
- Resource Generation to make a significant impact in the new challenges
- Expansion of membership to other countries of Asia-Pacific region (as annexed in the CIRDAP Agreement) and other regions (e.g. Middle East, Central Asia etc.)

Further, the new context of rural development at the national and international level and the paradigm shift to globalisation and market economics and recognition of the role of civil society organisations in rural development and poverty alleviation, new areas and approaches need to be identified for promoting regional cooperation through an inter-governmental organisation like CIRDAP. Similarly, with the emergence of major economies such as China, RoK, India and others in the region, new avenues for resource mobilisation need to be identified and agreed upon to make a meaningful impact on rural development and poverty alleviation.

With this context, the Governing Council of CIRDAP in its Sixteenth Meeting held in Manila in 2007 recommended to constitute the Evaluation Committee (CEC) consisting of the following:

- i. Iran from West Asia
- ii. India from South Asia
- iii. Malaysia from Southeast Asia
- iv. FAO to second one expert as a member
- v. IFAD to second one expert as a member
- vi. Government of Japan to second one expert as a member
- vii. A senior professional of CIRDAP

Based on this recommendation, a 5-member committee was formed and started functioning since 01 September 2008. The members of the committee are as follows:

- 1. Professor Dr. Yoshihiro Kaida**
Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University
601-22, Iwakura Hataeda-cho
Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-0015, Japan

2. **Mdm. Zainon bt. Md. Nasir**
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3. **Dr. B.K. Thapliyal**
Prof& Head, Centre for Agrarian Studies And Disaster Mitigation
National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD)
India
4. **Mr. Ali Khosravi,**
Rural Development Planning Office
Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture
Iran
5. **Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed**
Professor of Economics
University of Dhaka



First meeting of the Evaluation Committee in CIRDAP

FAO and IFAD regretted to join the evaluation. Professor Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed who worked earlier as Director (Research) in CIRDAP, has been appointed as senior professional of CIRDAP to work with the Committee. The committee is expected to prepare a report within six-month period.

The Evaluation will look into the strategic and institutional perspectives of CIRDAP. Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee as recommended are as follows:

- To review the context and mandate given to CIRDAP
- To review the achievements of CIRDAP during the past 27 years
- To review the changing policies and context at national and international level, especially in relation to rural development and poverty alleviation.
- To visit, at least one country by each member and headquarters of regional centres such as SAARC, ICIMOD, ASEAN, BMSTEC, ECO etc. and interact with them.

The Committee during its first meeting held on 1-5 September 2008 prepared a strategic plan to design the whole gamut of their activities.

The CEC during its first spell of work visited selected member countries such as Thailand, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines to gather relevant information from these countries. The CEC reviewed the activities of CIRDAP and also interviewed concerned stakeholders from Bangladesh including CIRDAP link ministry during their second spell of work from 23 to 28 December 2008. The CEC is planning to meet in mid-February 2009 at Hyderabad to discuss the preliminary findings and finalise the evaluation report. It may be mentioned that the Evaluation Committee is expected to submit their report at the end of February 2009.

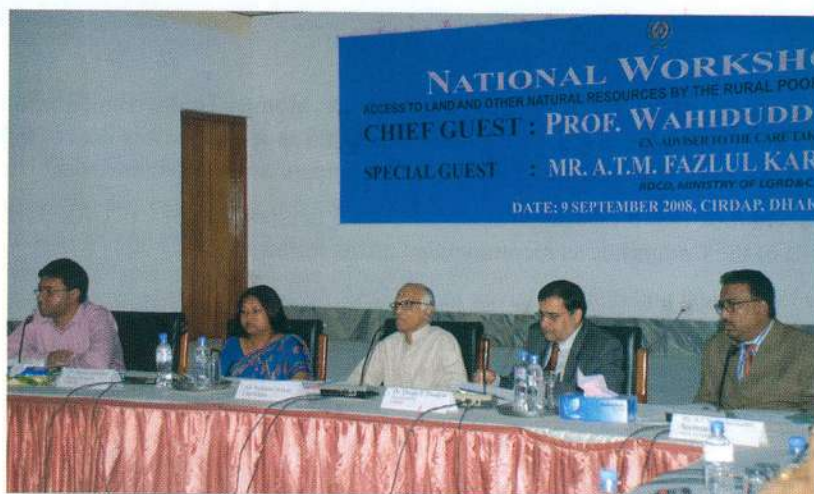
National Workshops Organised

Three National Workshops were organised under the project *Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in Four Asian Countries* (RF. 80).

Under the project, four countries are being covered, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. The country researchers from Bangladesh and Nepal, Dr. Selim Raihan, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Dr. Jagannath Adhikary from Nepal Development Institute and Mr. Carlos O. Abad Santos from Asia-Pacific Centre, Philippines prepared the first draft of the reports, which were presented and discussed in the National workshops organised on 5 September 2008 in Bangladesh, 16-17 September 2008 in Nepal and 20-21 November 2008 in the Philippines respectively. The papers are to be finalised based on the discussions in these workshops.



National Workshop in Nepal



National Workshop in Dhaka

CIRDAP organised the workshop in Dhaka while the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), CIRDAP's link institution in Nepal helped organise the workshop in that country. The Philippine Workshop was organised in collaboration with Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Philippines.

The workshops in these countries were widely attended by various stakeholders such as women's groups, indigenous groups, farmers' associations, academics and researchers, the government and representatives from FAO, the International Land Coalition, and ANGOC. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee of CIRDAP, Ms. Susana Leones, was also present at the workshop in Bangladesh and Philippines. The Minister for Local Development, inaugurated the workshop in Nepal, while the lead discussant and Chief Guest in Bangladesh was Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, ex-adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh.

The discussions generated wide interest amongst the press and were able to create awareness on the issues of access to land by the rural poor, particularly women and indigenous groups. The papers although set in the respective country contexts, covered a common set of issues such as the legal and institutional framework related to land and need for changes in these factors inhibiting women's access and those of the indigenous population, common property resources such as forests and water bodies. They also reviewed the trend in terms of access to land based on established data source. This could be used as a benchmark for the future. The issue of land grabbing was also highlighted as a factor limiting access in the case of Bangladesh, while land reform was a key commitment for the case of Nepal.

CIRDAP Observes 29th Founding Day

CIRDAP on occasion of its 29th Founding Anniversary organised a seminar on Access to Land by Rural Poor in Nepal at the Centres' Headquarters in Dhaka on 6 July 2008. Mr. A.T.M. Fazlul Karim, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperative Division of Ministry of LGRD&C inaugurated the seminar. Academicians, rural development practitioners, and development professionals took part in the half-day seminar. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Jagannath Adhikery, Programme Coordinator (Development Studies) of Nepal Development Research institute in Kathmandu. Dr. Selim Raihan of Dhaka University was the designated discussant.



Founding Day Seminar: Dr Durga P. Paudyal (M), Dr. Nasreen Khundker (R) and Dr. Jagannath Adhikery (L)

The keynote paper, in the context of a land-scarce country like Nepal, analysed the relationship between 'access' and 'poverty', the present situation with regards to land, the various policies and agendas in land access and the emerging issues in the current political context. The paper is a part of another CIRDAP study involving four countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines.

Earlier, while inaugurating the seminar, the honourable Secretary, Mr. Fazlul Karim, mentioned that despite global awareness and efforts, progress securing access to land by the poor on a sustainable basis has been rather slow, and the subsequent discussion of the crucial factors and issues relating to access of land and other natural resources is extremely important. The Secretary also iterated the commitment of the Bangladesh Government to the Centre and assured their full support for the years to come. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General and Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Director Research of CIRDAP, also spoke on the occasion.

An Assessment of Rural Development Initiatives: Future Opportunities

CIRDAP initiated the drive to commission the captioned study and organised the researcher's meeting in November 2007 following the recommendations of the 16th Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP in Manila, Philippines. In the second Regional Policy Dialogue held in Manila, it was pointed out that the agrarian reform and rural development must be contextualised with the emerging needs and priorities. CIRDAP had also initiated several other initiatives to conceptualise its role in the years to come on Resetting CIRDAP as a prelude to this current study. Scholars had pointed out the potentialities that CIRDAP can be developed as the Centre for Excellence in the areas of agrarian reform, rural development and poverty alleviation. It is expected that both the country-level findings and the evaluation of CIRDAP to be carried out at the same time, would help the organisation to perform better as a servicing institution for rural development in the region.

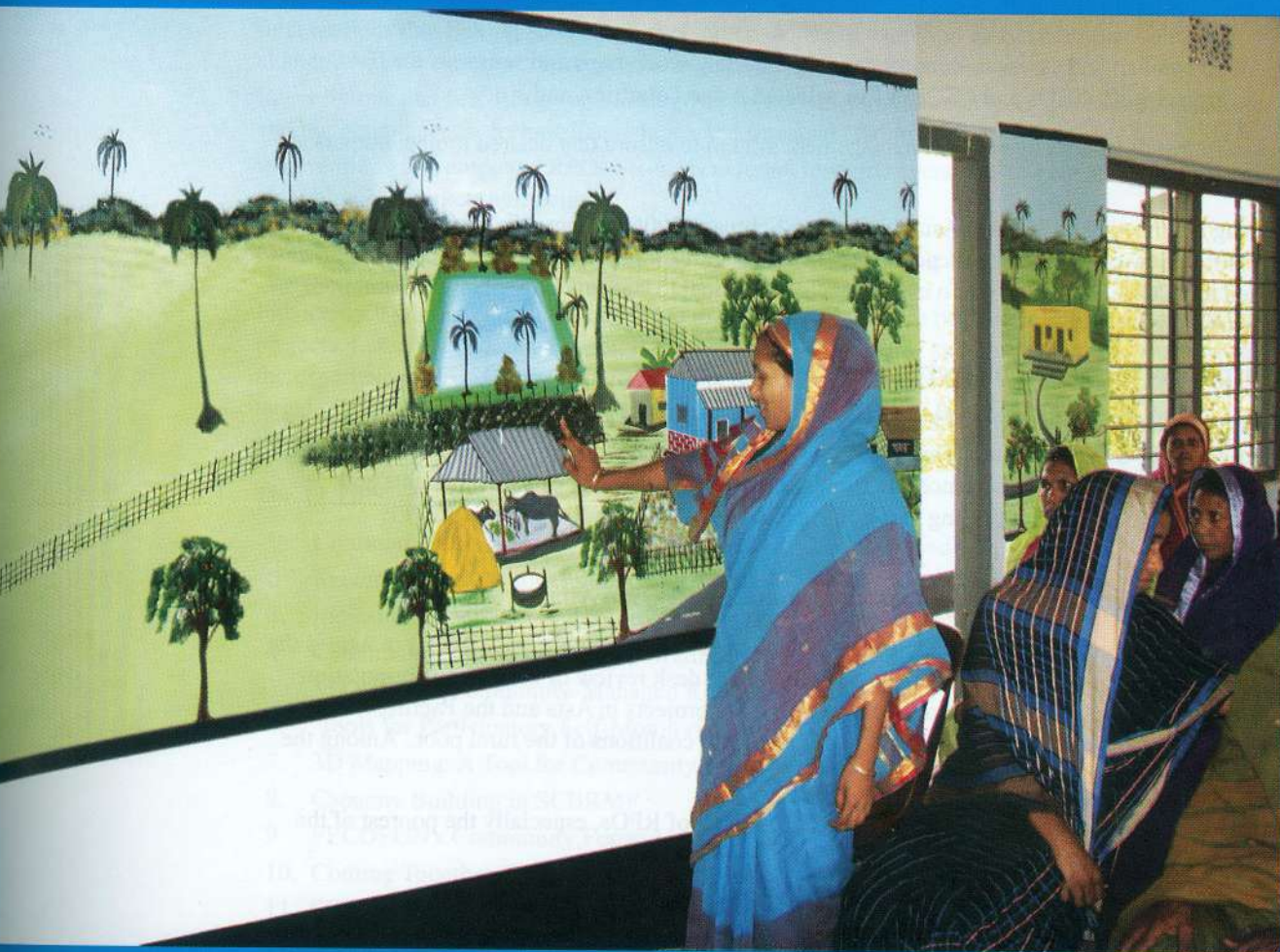
All the countries have submitted their reports except Malaysia and Lao PDR. An overview paper has been prepared by the Consultant of the project, Dr. S. Narayan. The country reports are being reviewed by an independent reviewer on the standard and suitability of the reports for publication and point out any errors or inconsistencies, including to what extent the major issues and areas detailed in the outline for the studies have been covered. CIRDAP is planning to publish all the reports individually by a reputed publisher on the occasion of the forth coming ministerial meeting to be held in Dhaka in 2009.

Pilot Projects

- Strengthening Rural Poor People's Organisations
 - IFAD's Experience in Building and Strengthening RPOs in Asia
 - CSO Experiences in Strengthening RPOs in Asia
 - Tools, Insights and Practices (TIPS) on Strengthening RPOs in Asia
 - Insights and lessons: SCOPE Experience

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



Pilot Projects Division

The pilot projects are designed in response to felt-needs of the community and formulated with a view to solving the problems faced by the community in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). They serve two objectives. One is to generate field-level knowledge and the other is for interventions which would lead to mitigating the sufferings of the community. Within the rural development context, pilot projects promote the participation of rural communities in various activities such as rural income and employment generation; credit and marketing through formal and informal organisations; rural primary health care; family planning; non-formal and informal education, human resource development; rural resource mobilisation, and strengthening the community-based organisations of the poor.

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

SCOPE Project, which has been implemented jointly by CIRDAP and ANGOC since June 2004, was completed in November 2007. However, Final SCOPE completion Report and Audited Report were sent to IFAD in March 2008. The project was supported by IFAD for funding and implemented in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines.

The overall goal of the SCOPE Project 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: (a) Design and implement sustainable CBO development actions; and (b) Promote up-scaling and policy linkages of CBOs through their clusters and federations.

The original major components of the SCOPE Project are:

- To review and document IFAD and CSO Best Practices in Building Rural Poor Organisations and Coalitions in the Asian region
- To conduct and assess in-country capacity-building workshops and activities for IFAD project staff, CBOs and CSOs in five selected Asian countries; and
- To install an effective project management system to ensure that desired project outputs are achieved.

During the meeting with IFAD Asia Division in February 2006 in Rome, Italy in which the SCOPE review of IFAD's experience in RPO sustainability was presented, a new component was added to SCOPE, specifically: To elaborate clear and doable sustainability plans for rural poor organisations (RPOs).

Outputs of SCOPE Project

During implementation of SCOPE project, it came up with four knowledge generation products focused on RPO sustainability. These are: 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.

a) IFAD's Experience in Building and Strengthening RPOs in Asia

IFAD's Experience in Building and Strengthening Rural Poor Organisations (RPOs) in Asia is the first publication of SCOPE which is the outcome of the desk review of the project formulation process and institution building components of IFAD's projects in Asia and the Pacific, looking particularly at experiences in building organisations and coalitions of the rural poor. Among the major findings and recommendations are:

- Limitations in project design and capacity building of RPOs, especially the poorest of the poor, affected the sustainability of RPOs;
- Need for an enabling policy environment and legal framework for RPOs;
- Support mechanisms that will continue the support to RPOs when projects end are necessary to ensure RPO sustainability; and

- Networking self-help groups and federations to address common cause and other issues of RPOs, and for lobbying and advocacy.

The major findings and recommendations above were further validated and pursued in subsequent SCOPE and project partners' activities (i.e., e-discussion on RPO sustainability; SCOPE in-country interventions; and 4 IFAD projects' RPO sustainability plans). SCOPE's capacity building activities undertaken with IFAD projects in four countries (i.e. SCBRMP - Bangladesh, PIDRA-Indonesia, RPRP - Mongolia, and NMCIREMP - Philippines) resulted in positive outcomes and impacts on the areas of a) building primary organisations of the poor; b) improving local governance; and c) building the RPOs' linkages with external entities, such as local government units/ Nation Building Departments (NBDs), NGOs, and business sector.

b) CSO Experiences in Strengthening RPOs in Asia

The knowledge product, 'CSO Experiences in Strengthening RPOs in Asia', is a second publication of SCOPE. It contains summaries and lessons drawn from 16 case studies of CSOs that were presented and analysed at a regional workshop (26-28 November 2005; Bangkok, Thailand) organised by SCOPE and participated in by CSOs and the five Project Directors of IFAD-supported projects in five countries. The cases focused on six major topics: Institutional and policy issues for IFAD; Understanding empowerment of the poor; Capacity development of the poor; Advocacy and policy dialogue; Scaling-up through coalitions, federations and networks of the poor; Building strategic partnerships.

The CSO experiences highlighted four development interventions that are critical to ensure the long-term sustainability of RPOs:

Interventions that build sustainable, self-governing RPOs, including leadership building and internal generation of resources;

Interventions that link up RPOs with each other - to create common cause, address common challenges, access resources more effectively, etc.;

Interventions that link RPOs with local government - to participate in local government planning and budgeting, access technical assistance and financial resources, etc.;

Interventions that empower RPOs vis-à-vis external resource agencies - to gain access to assets, technologies, markets and policies.

c) Tools, Insights and Practices (TIPS) on Strengthening RPOs in Asia

Previously it was agreed that SCOPE has to produce a Toolkit to be field-tested in selected IFAD projects. Later, instead of a Toolkit, it has been agreed that short and concise articles drawing on the experiences of CSOs and projects in Asia on strengthening RPOs would be more useful to the target audience of development practitioners. Tools, Insights and Practices (TIPS) on Strengthening RPOs is the knowledge product of this agreement.

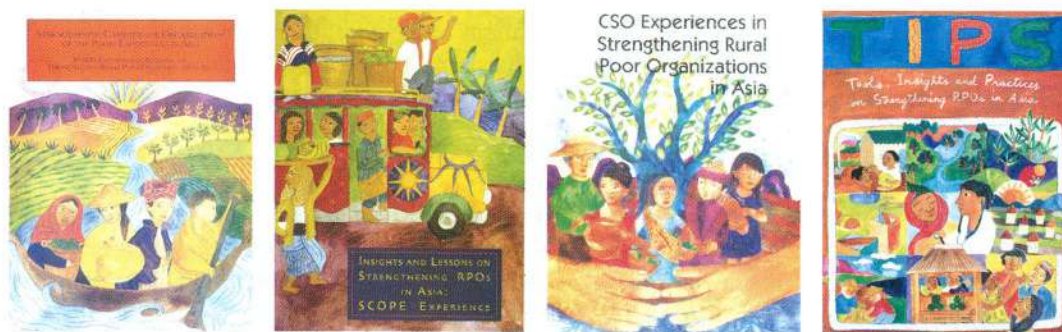
The 12 TIPS articles are:

1. Common Problems faced by RPOs in the Post-Project Period
2. Recommendations for Building and Strengthening RPOs
3. Indicators to Monitor and Assess the Sustainability of RPOs
4. Community Organising for Empowerment: Practice and Theory from the Philippine Experience
5. MYRADA's Community-Managed Resource Centres
6. Tools for Participatory Self-Monitoring of SHGs
7. 3D Mapping: A Tool for Community Empowerment
8. Capacity Building in SCBRMP
9. FECOFUN's Community Forest Users' Groups
10. Coming Together, Searching for Common Ground: The CPAR Experience in the Philippines
11. SEWA Pushes Ahead with Sajeevika: Picking up where a Partner Leaves off
12. A Focus on Bridging Leadership: Coalition Building in NMCIREMP

d) Insights and Lessons: SCOPE Experience

During the course of its implementation, SCOPE has gained significant lessons and insights, most notably on RPO sustainability. To share these lessons with a wider audience, a final knowledge product on SCOPE experience was produced and distributed within IFAD and other partners.

Four knowledge generation products of SCOPE Project



SCOPE Achievements

The SCOPE Project's key achievements are on three areas:

- a) Increasing awareness and knowledge level of IFAD staff and projects on sustainability of rural poor organisations (RPOs);
- b) Initiating capacity building activities for five IFAD projects in five countries in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines): SCOPE conducted five capacity assessment studies in the above mentioned designated countries. Four IFAD projects i.e. SCBRMP - Bangladesh, PIDRA-Indonesia, RPRP - Mongolia, and NMCIREMP - Philippines submitted their respective proposals for in-country capacity-building interventions, and were eventually approved SCOPE funding which resulted in positive impact on the areas of building primary organisations, improving local governance and building external linkages; and
- c) Elaborating clear and doable sustainability plans for RPOs for selected IFAD-supported projects: The designated projects conducted an exercise to identify key elements of an exit strategy, refined framework for the sustainability plans/ strategies on RPOs and assessed sustainability plans prepared by the respective projects.

Training

Regional Programmes

- Geographic Information System (GIS) Applications in Disaster Management
- Renewable Energy
- Sufficiency Economy and Poverty Alleviation
- Royal Development Study Centres
- Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects
- Planning and Management of Agriculture and Rural Development Projects
- Successful Models in Capacity Development

In-country Training

- Nepal

Exposure Visits

- Nepalese Officials
- Indian Officials

Focused Areas

- Disaster management
- Developing alternative renewable energy
- Small-scale agriculture
- Appropriate farm technology
- Sustainable use of water resources
- Conservation
- Flood and drought mitigation
- Integrated rural development
- Community empowerment
- Promotion of modern technology
- Cross-country sharing of experiences and development ideas
- Project formulation, implementation and evaluation of rural development projects
- Capacity development for enhancing performance
- Developing capacity building of institutions



Training Division

As a regional organisation designed to provide technical support and promote integrated rural development in the region, it is logical that among the first activities to be taken up would be a training support to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) in the area of IRD.

In the early years of its operation, the training programmes were basically geared towards advancing the cause of IRD, its concept and strategies. It moved on to providing training in the areas of general planning, monitoring and evaluation, project analysis, training methodologies and training management.

By 1990, CIRDAP training took up other concerns such as disaster management, environment, gender, participatory approaches in planning, PopMap application, and microcredit. In recent years Training Division focused its concern in the areas like information and communication technology, geographic information system, watershed programmes, good governance, role of local government in service delivery for poverty alleviation.

Regional Programmes

Government of India under its grant-in-aid programme to CIRDAP has been sponsoring regional training programmes to help CIRDAP member countries in Asia and Pacific for the last many years to exchange experiences between them and learn from each other's experiences. These programmes are also organised as an initiative to support the capacity-building efforts of Asian region through knowledge dissemination, sharing of expertise/experiences of India with member countries for networking, future collaboration in rural development efforts of member countries and to create better institutional and governmental linkages in the region to fulfil the mandate for poverty reduction and enhance regional cooperation.

In addition Government of Pakistan came forward to support CIRDAP in its efforts of capacity building of the CIRDAP member countries. During the year 2008 the Government of Pakistan approved two international training programmes.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Applications in Disaster Management

A regional training programme on Geographic Information System (GIS) Applications in Disaster Management, was held on 6 - 15 January 2008 in Thailand.

CIRDAP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, with financial support from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, organised the regional training programme during 6-15 January 2008, at the Colour Living Hotel, Suvarnabhumi, Bangkok, Thailand.



Group photo of participants of the training along with the chief guest

The use and development of GIS applications in India are at par with international standards, technology trends and development. The GIS techniques are extensively employed in a number of rural development fields including area planning, spatial analysis of data, monitoring, impact analysis, visual presentation, modelling and simulations and programming. NIRD, under the Ministry of Rural Development, has developed several initiatives with application of GIS in Disaster Management, which could be shared with CIRDAP member countries, and also skills of operational functionaries could be developed with customised GIS packages.

The programme being highly technical in nature, is oriented to examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in disaster management, review current use of the spatial technologies like the GIS in disaster management, and identify the potential areas where the GIS applications can play an effective decision support, analysis, monitoring, damage assessment, rehabilitation and rescue tool.

A total of 28 participants and experts with representation from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated in this 10-day training programme. The participation was at a senior level which permitted policy recommendations and commitment to actions or acceptance of follow-up responsibility.

The participants were on a field visit to Microhydro Institute, facilitated by three presentations and also field visit to Pattaya and several other places. There was a cultural programme to entertain the guests.

Renewable Energy

A training workshop on Renewable Energy was organised in Bali, Indonesia on 25 February -1 March 2008.

It was a 5th regional programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA in collaboration with Government of India and NAM CSSTC. The training workshop was participated in by 39 participants from CIRDAP and NAM countries.

Indonesia has been successful in developing alternative renewable energy projects successfully. There is a good model of public-private partnership in rural energy projects and products. These have supported government efforts to solve energy problem. Recently the Government of Indonesia has undertaken a big alternative renewable energy project to produce bio-diesel from the jatropha as a bio-fuel which is easily grown by rural people.

CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC entered into a MoU and have jointly been implementing training projects for the benefit of CIRDAP and NAM member countries in Asia and the Pacific. This training workshop on renewable energy is one such important training project, jointly coordinated by Training Division of CIRDAP, NAM CSSTC, SOCSEA, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Indonesia.

While inaugurating, Ms. Esti Andayani, Director of Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director, NAM CSSTC welcomed the participants and emphasised the concern that are shared on the problem of energy security and the development of renewable sources of energy and declared the training workshop open. She extended her profound appreciation to CIRDAP for making this joint endeavour possible.

She emphasised that one valid reason for holding this training workshop in Bali was due to its location and historical significance where thousands of temples started to develop an Integrated Waste Management System at the regional level which is worthy of being shared and learned. This integrated solid waste management project which covers one municipality and three regencies namely, Denpasar Municipality as well as Badung, Gianyar and Tabanan Regencies has become one of the very significant activities of the start-up development of waste-based electric power. Moreover, the project has also proven effective in successfully managing the regional waste treatment through gasification, landfill and anaerobic digestion (GALFAD) methods.



Participants along with chief guest

In his speech, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, mentioned the substantial gaining and models available in the region in utilising renewable energy sources. He emphasised that the programme will give an opportunity to the participating countries to learn success of these models, which could be replicated in other countries. He thanked NAM CSSTC and SOCSEA and Training Team of CIRDAP, especially Dr. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training) of CIRDAP for taking this initiative. There were six technical sessions and eleven country presentations.

The field visit was arranged to SARBAGITA integrated waste management project and power plant at Suwung Village, Denpasar, Bali. The participants after expert presentations, country presentations, field visits and briefing by experts, formed different groups and made concrete recommendations relating to subjects like food security and energy security, community empowerment, investment schemes, law and regulation framework, appropriate efforts by local, regional governments and international organisations.

The closing session was with a valedictory address by Dr. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, covering the outcomes of the workshop. Ms. Esti Andayani, Director, NAM CSSTC expressed her pleasure for sharing such experiences and thanked CIRDAP and other collaborative partners. She expressed her satisfaction that the participants had worked extensively to share many relevant issues on renewable energy - both policy issues and to some extent - technical aspects and alternative energy development in their respective countries. She noticed that the objectives of the regional training workshop were satisfactorily achieved.

Drs. I Ketut Sudikerta, Chairperson of Sarbagita Government Forum, expressed his desire to replicate the project by CIRDAP member countries and thanked all for cooperation. He was very thankful that Sarbagita project could inspire all the participants. He hoped that this small offer of visit is a gift from Bali, Indonesia to the world, to build the better world.

A total of 39 representatives, officials, experts, co-ordinators from NAM, CIRDAP, and SOCSEA have attended the programme. The Training Division of CIRDAP along with NAM CSSTC and SOCSEA has organised the training workshop. Several expert papers were presented for discussion.

Sufficiency Economy and Poverty Alleviation

A regional workshop on Sufficiency Economy and Poverty Alleviation was organised on 1-5 April 2008 at Cha-am, Petchaburi Province, Thailand, with a view to sharing the royal concept of Sufficiency Economy among CIRDAP member countries.

The concept gained worldwide recognition. The first UNDP Human Development Lifetime Achievement award was given to His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand for his extraordinary contribution to human development and commitment to the people.

During 60 years of long and unmatched service, His Majesty the King of Thailand has promoted rural development and helped improve the lives of the poor people, through programmes of unique nature and also travelled the entire width and breadth of the country visiting communities even in most remote areas, making him the most widely travelled king in the history.

The King's projects gave emphasis to: Small-scale agriculture; Appropriate farm technology; Sustainable use of water resources; Conservation; Flood and drought mitigation; Integrated rural development projects.

Also His Majesty has extended royal patronage and action support to a range of social causes in health and wellbeing of children, combating iodine deficiency, improving access to formal and informal education, etc. His Majesty's contribution to rural Thailand through integrated approaches has helped crop substitution to opium harvests and benefited ethnic groups in the bordering and mountainous areas and brought improvements in health and education in Northern Thailand.

Sufficiency Economy

'Sufficiency Economy' is a philosophy that His Majesty the King initiated more than 30 years ago. It is an idea based on the fundamental of Thai culture.

His Majesty's important contribution to development thinking is the 'Sufficiency Economy' which provides for balanced holistic and sustainable development approach by stressing the problems of moderation, creation and reliance to change simultaneously adhering to social values. This was widely adopted in Thailand with importance to responsible consumption, diversification of household production, and appropriate conduct at all levels - household, community, business and government.

Sufficiency economy is a philosophy that shows the guideline for populace on how to lead their lives and behave. This applies to people at all levels from the individual, the family, the community, to the state in the development and administration of the country by adhering to the middle path, especially in economic development so as to keep in line with the forces of globalisation.

Royal Development Study Centres

The Royal Development Study Centres at the core of agricultural research in Thailand grew out of the early experiments at Chitralada Villa, Dusit Palace and in Hua Hin. They were set up in different areas of the country to represent the different geographical conditions of each region: sandy soil, mangroves, hills or degraded forests, and/or a combination of several of these features. In these sites, several government departments could coordinate their experiments and exchange ideas for the integrated development of rural areas.

His Majesty the King has underlined in every royally-initiated project the need for a step-by-step development process. That is, the development work will start with community empowerment to ensure the self-reliance of its members. Only after such a strengthened social structure is achieved, other development projects can begin. The development includes conservation of energy and environmental resources and promotion of modern technology.

The centres have their objectives to conduct studies, researches and experiments into development strategies suitable to each environment. They also serve as centres of communication, a place to exchange ideas among academics, practitioners and local people.

The Workshop

It is in this context, CIRDAP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand, desired to disseminate the success cases of Thailand to all CIRDAP member countries. Since exchange of information is both ways, CIRDAP countries can also present one/two success cases from their countries.

The workshop was participated in by 24 delegates from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and CIRDAP headquarters. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), CIRDAP and Mr. Kasem Prasutsangchan, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand and was held at the Methavalai Beach Resort Hotel, Cha-am, Thailand.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- To provide knowledge on the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and royal projects to CIRDAP member countries
- To exchange notes with other successful projects in the region
- To take the philosophy of sufficiency economy to all the CIRDAP member countries, so as to make it a replicable model for integrated rural development in Asia and the Pacific

Inaugural Session

The workshop was held during 1-5 April 2008. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Pinit Korsieporn, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Pinit, in his address, mentioned that chronic poverty is one of the most significant national issues which has to be seriously addressed, especially in the rural poor community where there is need to educate them how to stand up on their own feet or otherwise known as 'self-immunity' from the threat of external shock caused by globalisation.

He stated that each country has its own policies and measures to cope with various issues. For Thailand, the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy is an alternative model for integrated agriculture and rural development. He told that details of Sufficiency Economy and New Theory of Agriculture would be elaborated during the workshop.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, in his speech, mentioned that the world is aware that His Excellency's theory of Sufficiency Economy has taken practical roots in the nook and corner of Thailand. Subsequently this recognition of enviable services and improvement in the lives of the poor people and the contribution to rural areas in a variety of fields has got a universal acclaim.

He mentioned that several recent reports of CIRDAP countries as well as international agencies show a dismal picture in the areas of food security, employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable environmental management across the countries. Needless to say that rural poor are suffering the most.

In this context, CIRDAP is emerging as a useful and effective institution at the regional level for assisting national action, promoting regional cooperation and providing services to rural development among CMCs.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, proposed vote of thanks on the occasion.



The Participants

Plenary Sessions

After the inaugural session, a presentation on Sufficiency Economy and New Theory of Agriculture was presented by Mr. Manoon Pumklom, Director of Agricultural Services Centre, The Chaipattana Foundation, Thailand. The second presentation was on 'Integrated Rural Development in Thailand: A Case of the Project for Revitalisation of the Deteriorated Environment in the Land Reform Areas through Integrated Agricultural Development Stage 1' by Ms. Panita Satutum, Senior Officer, Agricultural Land Reform Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), Government of Thailand.

The delegates later visited Huai Sai Royal Development Study Centre, Sam Phraya Sub-District, Cha-am District, Petchaburi Province. The Head of the Huai Sai Royal Development Study Centre briefed the delegates about the activities of the centre and then demonstrated a few field activities of the centre.



Participants on a field visit

The delegates also visited the farm house of Mr. Khean, a former navy personnel now a farmer. He believes that the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy is good for rural farmers, and the rural community is very happy.

On the 3rd April 2008 the session started with the presentation on 'One Tambon One Produce (OTOP)' by Ms. Sumalee Soontornnarurungsi, Director of Home Economics, Department of Agricultural Extension, Government of Thailand. The vision of OTOP is: To promote and develop farmers to be self-reliant; To produce agricultural products with good quality; To be engaged in farmer's occupation and sustainable manner.

The objective is to add value on agricultural products; respond to consumers needs; increase job opportunity.

After the presentation on OTOP, there were country presentations from CIRDAP member countries. At the end of country presentations Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, summed up the country presentation. He congratulated all the country representatives for their presentations in a very short notice. He mentioned that some very good innovative ideas and very successful products and project in rural development have been received.

Director General, CIRDAP, expressed his happiness to attend the workshop and learned something from the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy of HM the King of Thailand. He congratulated the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand for organising this programme and requested the other countries to organise similar type of programme so that countries can share their experiences.

Mr. Pisan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand, expressed his gratitude for participation on the experience of poverty alleviation in CMCs. He found the workshop very successful and useful. He hoped participants were able to understand about the Sufficiency Economy of the HM the King of Thailand.

In the afternoon, the delegates visited the Hup Kaphong Royal Project, Khao Yai Sub-District, Cha-am District. The delegates were informed about the activities of this Royal Project through video presentation. The delegates also visited Doi Khun Huai Royal Project and a women's group at Kao Yai Sub-District, where they produce household herbal products.

Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects

A regional training programme on Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects was organised by CIRDAP in Islamabad, Pakistan from 10 to 14 June 2008 in collaboration with Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration (AHKCRD&MA) and with the funding support from Government of Pakistan under grant-in aid and additional support from the Commonwealth Secretariat, London.

The programme was attended by 43 senior and mid-level participants and resource persons from all CIRDAP Member Countries except Indonesia and Iran and selected Commonwealth Member Countries in Asia. The programme was inaugurated by the federal Minister for Local Government & Rural Development, Government of Pakistan HE Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour. It was attended, among others; by Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development Government of Pakistan, Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Director General, AHKCRD&MA, Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Programme Officer, Training, CIRDAP and senior Officials from the Ministry and NCRD.



H.E. Haji Ghulam Ahemd Bilour (L) inaugurating the training

The objectives of the programme were:

- developing a sound understanding of the concept and methodologies used in participatory planning and management of rural development projects;
- acquiring practical skills in using participatory techniques (PRA/RRA, PLA/PPCM/ZOPP) in the process of planning and management of rural development programmes/projects; and
- using the techniques in their current work or in their future project planning exercise.

Chief Guest, in his inaugural speech, said that rural development and poverty alleviation is top agenda of the Government of Pakistan. In the rural areas, he said, poverty and its various manifestations such as illiteracy, malnutrition and backwardness is seen. He stressed that the rural communities should be given equal opportunities, especially in education so that their living standard could be raised. He welcomed all the participants to the beautiful city of Islamabad and extended his full support for the comfortable stay of participants during the programme.

Secretary, Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, Government of Pakistan, in his welcome speech, stressed the need of capacity development programmes for rural development functionaries. He said that the present programme would provide a platform for the cross-country sharing of experiences and development ideas which will have impact on not only the improvement in rural society but will also promote regional understanding. He felt his happiness in selecting Islamabad the venue for the programme and assured of his best facilities both administrative and academic.

DG CIRDAP, in his inaugural speech, mentioned the uniqueness of CIRDAP as an intergovernmental organisation for the promotion of regional cooperation through its strong network in 14 member countries. He said that poor performance of state in addressing poverty and human development created a vacuum to be filled up by several new players such as I/NGOs, microcredit institutions, civil societies and private companies which emerged only during past decades with economic and social agenda.

He thanked Government of Pakistan for its support in grant-in-aid to CIRDAP for the capacity development activities and mentioned that one more programme will follow the last quarter of current year. He also thanked Commonwealth Secretariat for its continued support and collaboration with CIRDAP. 'Both the institutions have successfully organised workshop on Good Governance at NCRD a couple of months ago. I am sure that joint collaboration between these two

institutions will go a long way in capacity development of CLIs", he affirmed. Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Director General, AHKNCRD&MA proposed vote of thanks.

Valedictory Session

Valedictory session of the programmes was held and attended, among others, by the dignitaries from the Ministry and NCRD. Mr. Jamil Ahmed, DG, CIRDAP, while chairing the session, expressed his great satisfaction on the successful completion of the programmes. He admired the participating countries and their representatives for taking interest in the programme and worked extensively to share many relevant issues during the deliberations. This was seen in the group presentations taken place at the end of the programme. He said that such initiatives should be held continuously in the future as well and thanked CIRDAP and Commonwealth for their genuine support in the programme.

Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Programme Officer, Training, CIRDAP, in his valedictory speech, mentioned that reducing poverty in the region at the earliest is the common goal. 'There are a number of successful experiences and models to be learnt from the CIRDAP Member Countries. Need of the hour is how to share information on policies, programmes and projects and also project the successful models and sell these to our member countries for wider dissemination', he said.

This was followed by the certificate distribution ceremony. Prior to that, group presentations were held which was chaired by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan Khan, Chairman National Rural Support Programme. He praised the efforts made by the Government of Pakistan together with the CIRDAP and Commonwealth for the great work done in the capacity development of the countries from Asia. He congratulated all the collaborative partners, participants and resource persons for the successful conduct of the important programme in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Planning and Management of Agriculture and Rural Development Projects

International Training Programme on Planning and Management of Agriculture and Rural Development Projects, was held on 4-13 August 2008 at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Guwahati, Assam, India.

The World Development Report 2008 is especially devoted to agriculture for development, which is the main source of employment and livelihoods in rural areas. As a provider of environmental sources, it has its links to rural development. The development goals of developing countries in the Asia Pacific region attach high priority to rural development and poverty alleviation. The Government of India, through the Ministry of Rural Development, is extending cooperation not only to CIRDAP member countries but also to other countries. The aim of the programme is to support national governments in their efforts at project formulation, implementation and evaluation of rural development projects.

It is important, in this context, that steps relating to planning of IRD projects are clearly understood and carefully followed as it was designed as social participatory techniques.

Objectives

The overall objectives of this course are aimed at knowledge inputs combined with enhancing capabilities in planning and managing the projects.

The specific objectives of the course are to:

- provide insights into the micro-level planning concepts and techniques, including PRA/PPCM methods relevant for use in poverty alleviation/productivity enhancement/community projects;
- promote working skills for systematic and scientific planning of agriculture and IRD projects;
- visit projects for greater understanding of the concepts and methods of implementation.

The International Training Programme was organised on 4 - 13 August 2008 at the North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC) of National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), at Guwahati, Assam, India, in collaboration with CIRDAP.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. P.C. Sharma, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, India, and attended by CIRDAP member countries in Asia and the Pacific. The countries represented are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Chief Secretary said that Assam Government has initiated programmes in a massive way to bring down the poverty in this region. He mentioned that 'We are trying to develop our agriculture and rural areas without disturbing the ecological balance'.

The Chief Guest mentioned about self-help groups (SHGs) that have been able to do business in primary and tertiary sectors. By forming SHGs the rural poor have been able to increase their income. He suggested visiting SHGs while in the field to see their activities.

He pointed out the working facilities for young people; Information Technology (IT) is also playing a big role for the development of blocks. By the use of IT, village people can communicate with the world and market their product.

Mr. Sharma talked about pisciculture, small-scale irrigation, use of ground water, etc. for the development of agriculture. He stated that 'we have a lot of resources and we should utilise the resource for the sake of rural poor and reduce the poverty'.

Mr. Sharma mentioned that the delegates will be able to learn more during their deliberations and field visits. He thanked Dr. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP; Dr. N. Upadhaya, Director, NERC; Dr. B.K. Thapliyal, Professor and Head, Centre for Agrarian Reform and Disaster Management, NIRD, Hyderabad and all the foreign delegates for attending this programme at Guwahati. He wished them a pleasant stay at Guwahati.

Dr. Sudhakar Rao spoke at length of his association with the North Eastern region for the last 20 years and the tremendous developments that are taking place and wished the participants to gain knowledge during the programme proceedings.

Field Visits

The participants were taken to Meghalaya State to visit and study several important agriculture and rural development projects. These are Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Barapani; The Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd., Shillong and Dewlieh Farm, Umsring (Centre of Excellence under Horticulture Technology Mission). At ICAR, Barapani, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Sr. Scientific Officer welcomed the delegates and briefly described about ICAR. Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR North Eastern Hill Region, Barapani, presented a slide show on North-East Agriculture Issue and Perspectives. The presentation was followed by a visit to the complex of ICAR where Dr. Ngachan explained the research activities.

The delegates also visited the Centre of Excellence for Strawberry and Rose, Dewlieh Horticulture Farm, Umsning, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya, a project funded under the Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture. Mr. B.K. Sohliya, Project Leader, explained the participants about the activities of the centre. Here the delegates met Mr. P.A. Sangma, former Speaker of Indian Parliament and Chairman, National Planning Board, Meghalaya. Mr. Sangma had interaction with the delegates and expressed his happiness that foreign delegates are keen to visit this horticulture centre.

After the breakfast at Shillong Club, the delegates were taken to Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd., Shillong, where the delegates had interaction with Ms. Roshan Warjri, Chairperson and Mr. Darryl F. War, Managing Director of the bank. Later the delegates were taken to self-help

groups financed by the bank. The delegates interacted with a 10-member group which deals in cable network, another dealing in poultry rearing and a day-care centre. The delegates were very enthusiastic to see that running of a day-care centre by self-help group where two lady members of the group run the centre. During the free time the two ladies also prepare artificial flower which they sell to market.

Valedictory Session

During the valedictory session, the participants shared their comments on the various aspects of the training programme. The participant from Thailand thanked all faculty members and staff-members of NERC on successfully conduct of the programme. The Philippines participant felt that though he was out of his country, he felt very homely. He expressed his gratitude for the generosity and hospitality provided by NERC. Bangladesh participant expressed his great pleasure to participate in this international training programme. He mentioned that this type of training programme is required for regional cooperation and sharing of experience. Nepal participant thanked NERC for all kinds of facilities and support during their stay, and he was carrying memorable experiences from Guwahati.

The valedictory session was chaired by Mr. P.P. Srivastava, former Chief Secretary of the State and now Member, North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong. He thanked all the teachers (Dr. Rao, Dr. Upadhyay and Dr. Thapliyal) for their academic contribution. He said he would recommend to the Minister of Rural Development, Government of India and Director General, NIRD, about the utility and usefulness of this programme. He pointed out the cultural ethos, and traditional ethos of India, and this training programme is for rural development, which means the development at the grassroots level. He was quoting from Mahatma Gandhi 'Whether it will bring smile to the poor, if does not do so, modify it in such a way that it happens to bring smile to the poor'.

The Chief Guest was of the opinion that food security, step by step approach to development, value addition to local produce, community-level industry, village industry, and cottage industry. He mentioned about trade between neighbouring countries without looking to the countries which are very far.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, thanked Dr. B.K. Thapliyal and Dr. N. Upadhyay and appreciated the staff of NERC of NIRD and DG, NIRD for extending support for sponsoring participants to attend training programme at NERC, Guwahati. He also thanked the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for providing funds for organising the training programme. He wished all the participants a safe journey back home.



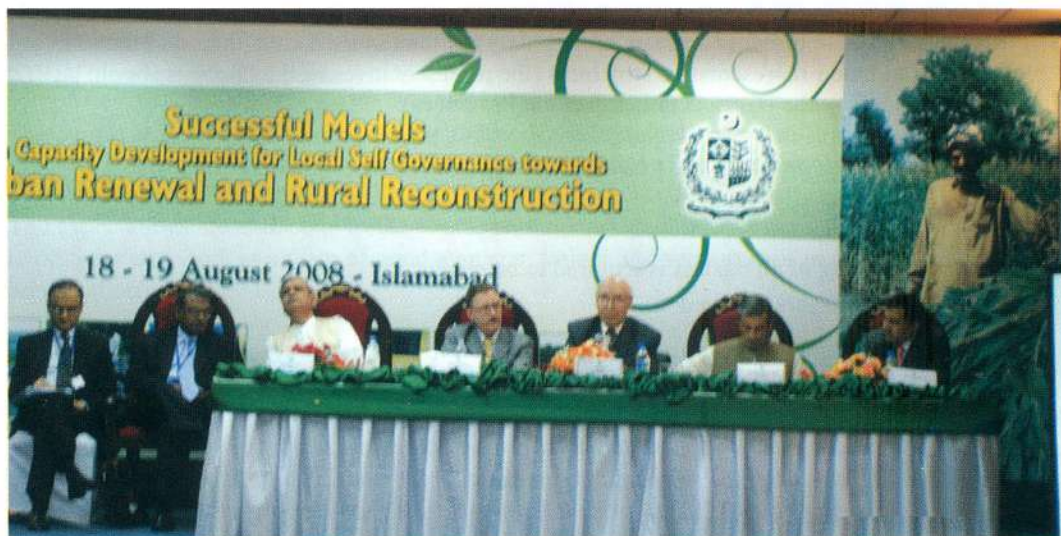
Group photograph of the participants of the training

Successful Models in Capacity Development

A national workshop on Successful Models in Capacity Development for Local Self-Governance towards Urban Renewal and Rural Reconstruction, was organised on 18-19 August 2009 in Islamabad.

Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with its development partners including CIRDAP, organised the workshop. It was attended by 116 participants from Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

While inaugurating the workshop, Prime Minister of Pakistan underlined the need for more coherent and consistent effort to strengthen the local governments in Pakistan. He emphasised the need for legitimate local government institutions supported by all the federating units of the country. He announced that NCRD would be made School of Local Governance and both NCRD and MTRI will work as Centres of Excellence at the federal level with transfer of PARD to the provincial government.



Distinguished speakers at the inauguration of the workshop

The workshop reviewed a wide-range of issues relating to the local governance amongst elected representatives, administrators, donor agencies, academics, researchers, civil society organisations and others concerned. They viewed that the evolution of local governance in Pakistan has remained inconsistent, unpredictable and, at times, subjected to political manoeuvring of military dictators. As a result, the local government bodies have been weak and dependent to the goodwill of the centre.

The participants were engaged in conducting a situation analysis exercise as well as identifying possibilities for change, focusing particularly on the experiences of last seven years with regards to the implementation of the existing district government system under Local Government Ordinance 2001 and developing capacities for local governance to deliver its functions. The situation analysis included a stock-taking of the national experiences with decentralisation, and the state of the country's urban and rural spaces, how they sustain people, and how they are governed leading to identify key lessons, particularly in terms of what has and has not worked in the local governance process.

Several best practices and successful stories were presented so that the directions of change may be viewed in concrete terms and with the help of successful examples from Pakistan, India, and Nepal etc.

Discussions and Major Recommendations

The overall focus of the workshop was on local governance in urban and rural areas; how it affects the people living in these areas and how capacities can be developed to improve local governance.

The main themes were discussed in the workshop and major recommendations were offered as given below:

- The Local Govt law should be under the purview of the Provincial Govt.
Or
- The Constitution of Pakistan should recognise local government as a separate tier of government.
- Simplifying the system (amending the law to eradicate layers that have not been implemented or that encumber the system) and creating linkages between the various layers (tehsil and district, etc).
- The Law needs to be revisited/reviewed as it was flawed, and moreover, even in its flawed nature (the Zila Mohtasibs) was not implemented. The accountability and audit mechanisms need to be reconsidered. The audit of the District Governments should be reverted to the Provincial Local Audit.
- Reconsidering levying Octroi/Goods Exit Tax.
- The existing schedule of taxation at the Local level should be altered in order to ensure that the revenue of the Local Governments improves.
- Reconsidering the Provincial Finance Commissions, their constitution, their distribution formula, and their representative structures (the representatives of the Districts should be recommended by the Districts rather than the Provinces).

Capacity Development for Enhancing Performance

Rural/Urban

- Capacity building of all nazims is required to be enhanced
- Capacity of managers required
- Mapping and GIS system
- There should be some interface programmes for effective coordination
- Financial autonomy should be strengthened
- Capacity of training institutes and trainers
- Capacity building and empowerment of community
- Institutional strengthening

Developing Capacity Building of Institutions

Rural/Urban

- Revisiting the training institutions
- Training institutions lack skilled trainers
- Motivation and training of trainers
- Autonomy of institutions
- Institutions need to be linked with universities, international institutes and other research centres
- Independent institutions for urban and rural sectors
- Ownership of provincial and federal government of training institutions is weak
- Training should be need-based and certified

In-country Training Programme

Nepal

As part of Training Division's new initiatives as in-country training programme and as requested by Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal, a training course was organised for Training Centre Managers' immediately after the TC Meeting during 8-10 May 2008. The context is to move training centres effectively as per the LDTA Charter (ACT) while enjoying their full autonomy and to enhance institution building process of Training Centres of LDTA-Nepal in line to its mandated objectives.

Some of the problems/issues identified in the concept note, prepared by LDTA are: A few of trained principals on institution building and training centre management is available at present in LDTA. A need was felt to manage Training Centres effectively.

The programme was a collaborative effort between LDTA, CIRDAP and with experts drawn from NIRD, Hyderabad. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP; Dr. B.K. Thapliyal, Professor and Head, CAR&DM, NIRD, and Dr. Suman Chandra, Professor and Head, RTD, NIRD, were the resource persons.

The course objectives are to enhance capability of the Principals and Vice-Principles of LDTA - Training Centres on Training Centre Management.

The expectations are at the end of the course participants shall have commitment and will be able to organise and work as a team of good manager, trainer and support staff in order to achieve the organisation's goal.

Twenty-five principals, vice-principles and staff-members of rural development, urban development and women development training centres of LDTA took part in the programme. The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal and was concluded with Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal, in the Chair. Mr. Bhagirath Singh, Asst. Director of Studies, LDTA, coordinated the entire programme. The Executive Director of LDTA, Mr. Babu Ram Shrestha has praised the contents of the course and contribution by CIRDAP Training Division and NIRD professionals.

Exposure Visits

Nepalese Officials

A Training-cum-Study Visit was arranged for the Officials from Government of Nepal at CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka from 30 December 2007 to 06 January 2008.

As a part of regional cooperation and sharing of experiences, the Training Division has been coordinating training-cum-study visits for officials of selected member countries, at their request on fees levying basis. A group of eleven senior officials representing various departments of the Government of Nepal visited CIRDAP to study and analyse the various aspects of decentralisation, local development and community-led development being under taken by the various stakeholders in Bangladesh. The study visit was held from 30th December, 2007 to 6th January, 2008, with classroom sessions and field visits.

Variety of the subjects covered during the study visit like infrastructure, decentralisation, services delivery at local level, and also study visits to various development projects in Bangladesh. The visits covered Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund (SLGDF) at Sirajganj, infrastructure development project, comprehensive village development projects at Comilla and Local Government Engineering Department projects in Chittagong. These were facilitated by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, and BRAC. The participants interacted with the local officials and communities at various places to study, learn

and assess the various tools, techniques and approaches adopted by the visited institutions in the process of decentralised development and community-driven project planning and implementation at the local level.

H. E. Mr. Pradeep Khatriwada, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal in Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session of the training-cum-visit programme and gave away certificates to the participants. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP gave a description of bi-lateral projects taken by Training Division, as a regular training project to facilitate officials of member countries to visit Bangladesh to learn microcredit success story and the contribution of LGED in infrastructure development, BARD project on CVDP and other successful projects undertaken by JICA, UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives of Bangladesh.

Indian Officials

The officials from India visited Bangladesh on a Training-cum-Study Visit on Microfinance on 11-18 January 2008.

The programme was held between 11 and 18 January 2008 to expose bankers, regional rural banks, NGOs, RBI, NABARD, SIDBI etc. to study microfinance approaches through field visits of the relevant MFIs in Bangladesh, particularly Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC, etc. The study visit is meant to develop understanding, methodologies and practices adopted by successful MFIs in Bangladesh and to interact with various organisations and institutions.

The study visit had 11 participants from various states in India, locally coordinated by Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India.

It is an opportunity provided by Training Division of CIRDAP to study concepts, methods and practices of largely successful microfinance institutions such as Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC, BURO at Tangail, RDA at Bogra, BRDB, and others like ANANDO. There were lecture-cum-discussion sessions on Grameen Bank, ASA and BRAC, and the delegates interacted with the MFI staff and the centre clientele. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) as the nodal NGO financing government initiative was introduced with an interactive session by in microfinance. Mr. Mosharraf Hossain Khan, Deputy Managing Director.

During the opening session, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General welcomed the delegates to CIRDAP and thanked BIRD for continued cooperation in organising the exposure visits to CIRDAP. H. E. Mr. Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest during the Valedictory Session and gave away certificates to the participants.

Overall programme feed-back was rated as very effective in terms of training methodology, support services, contents, presentations, visit to organisations, administration and logistics, staff behaviour, etc.

Two More Indian Teams

Regional Training College, NABARD, Bolpur, West Bengal, India, sponsored training-cum-exposure visits for two Indian delegates on two occasions. The first batch of team (Batch-1) came to Bangladesh on 4-11 July 2008, and the second batch (Batch-2) made their visit on 19-26 September 2008.

On a request from Regional Training College, CIRDAP organised the two Exposure Visit programmes on microfinance in Bangladesh for the Indian officials. Both the programmes were attended by 20 participants each. The first programme was led by Mr. U.N. Biswal, Principal, Regional Training College (RTC), NABARD, Bolpur, West Bengal, India and the second programme was led by Mr. Asoke Chakrabarty, Faculty Member, RTC, Bolpur.

Briefing and Discussion Session was made by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Director Training, CIRDAP, where Dr. Rao briefed the delegates about the activities to be carried out during the programmes, and he discussed micro-finance activities in Bangladesh and in India. He apprised the participants of how microfinance can be a tool to alleviate poverty in India.

There were short inaugural sessions at CIRDAP auditorium where Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, and Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director, Information and Communication, respectively chaired the two programmes. Mr. U.N. Biswal, Principal, Regional Training College, NABARD, Bolpur, West Bengal, India, (Team Leader of the first programme) stated that microfinance has become famous now-a-days, and it has added additional flavour because Prof. Mohammad Yunus of Grameen Bank was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. He felt happy that he would see through his own eyes the microcredit operations in Bangladesh.



Participants with Dr. Md. Yunus, Nobel Laureate, at the Grameen Bank Headquarters

Director General, CIRDAP, stated that CIRDAP has been organising this type of programme for the last ten years and hundreds of delegates from different member countries, especially from India participated in this programme. He hoped that delegates will be benefited by visiting the microcredit groups operated by Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA, PROSHIKA, BURO Bangladesh, etc. and ultimately the delegates will contribute a lot to their respective work.

Mr. Mosharraf Hossain Khan, Deputy Managing Director, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) delivered a session on 'Role of PKSF in Microfinance'. Mr. Khan apprised the delegates about the functions of PKSF and how it contributes to the microcredit industry in Bangladesh.

The delegates were taken to ASA Headquarters, Dhaka, to be briefed about the activities of ASA in the field of microfinance. A video film on ASA was shown to delegates, and ASA officials were briefed about ASA activities.

To acquaint the delegates with grassroots-level client of ASA, CIRDAP organised a field visit to ASA groups at Tangail. The delegates had very active interaction with ASA members in the villages, and the group members were happy to see that foreigners coming to their door steps to observe their activities.

BRAC as one of the biggest NGOs in the world, works not only in the field of microfinance but also in other social activities like, education, health, legal services, etc. Keeping in view the microfinance-plus activities of BRAC, the delegates were enthusiastic to know about BRAC; hence there was a briefing session with BRAC officials at BRAC Headquarters, Dhaka.

Since Grameen Bank has done a commendable work for the poor in Bangladesh, the delegates had a lot of interest about this microfinance institution. Hence a field visit to the Grameen Bank centres at Tangail followed by a briefing session at Grameen Bank HQs. in Dhaka was organised.

BURO Bangladesh is another microfinance institution in Bangladesh, which is growing fast to serve the rural people of Bangladesh. In this effort delegates were also taken to BURO Regional Office at Tangail. The delegates were briefed through a PowerPoint presentation about ins and outs of this microfinance institution. Later there were interaction and discussion between the BURO officials and delegates.

The Regional Training College, NABARD, Bolpur, India, for its first programme, requested the organiser to include for visit one or two government organisations, which are dealing in microfinance. On this line CIRDAP included Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) to familiar the delegates with this government organisation dealing in microfinance and other social activities. The delegates (Batch-I) had briefing and interaction with BRDB officials at its Bogra Regional Office followed by a field visit to one of its clientele.

On request from RTC, NABARD, Bolpur, CIRDAP Training Division included two new institutions for Batch-II, namely Sonali Bank and PROSHIKA.

At the end, there was Valedictory Sessions where Director General, CIRDAP chaired and gave away certificates to the delegates. In both the programmes the delegates presented their group reports and appreciated the activities of MFIs in Bangladesh. They thanked DG and Dr. Sudhakar Rao for arranging useful field visits and interactions.

Information and Communication

Focused Areas

- Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination
- ICT Support and Services
- CIRDAP Website
- Library Services
- Audio-Visual Services
- Public Relations

- Publications dealing with research knowledge and application
- Disseminating the results
- Policy to upload full text of all recent CIRDAP publications
- Good ICT support service
- Web-based activities
- Efforts to make CIRDAP website more dynamic and pro-active
- Publication exchange programme was expanded
- Avenues to strengthen Aziz-ul Haq Library
- Reference section updated
- Action to maintain continent-wise folders of rural development materials
- Photographer engaged to cover major events
- Event-wise selected photographs posted on the website
- Public relations programmes strengthened of the Centre.
- A good advocacy of the Centre ensured



Information and Communication Division

ICD applied its experience and expertise to integrate, consolidate and strengthen the year-round activities in a very participatory way. The division maintained its momentum in knowledge generation, management and dissemination.

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

- I. Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination
- II. ICT Support and Services
- III. CIRDAP Website
- IV. Library Services
- V. Audio-Visual Services
- VI. Public Relations

I. Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

In 2008, CIRDAP publications dealt with many new avenues of research knowledge and practical application, and disseminated the results to the different channels concerned. The publications were improved with better editing, new designs and formatting on par with international standard.

These efforts brought in rich dividends. Full text and/or abstracts of APJORD articles can now be downloaded from several international websites. Requests are being received from international academic websites for permission to upload full text of APJORD (e.g. CAB International, Oxford, UK; EBSCO Publishing, USA; and Minnesota University, USA).

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. During the period under review, two issues of APJORD (i.e. Vol. XVII, No. 2 and Vol. XVIII, No. 1) were published. Another APJORD Editorial Board Meeting was held in November 2008 to decide on Vol. XVII, No. 2.

Four issues of the quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest were published. Annual Report 2007 was also published. ICD also carried out other editing/printing work 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. Many visitors to the website are also downloading some of those. Exchange of publications with reputed institutions was strengthened. Attempt has been taken to make this arrangement more and more pro-active expanding it to other areas as well.

II. 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 fiber connection with 192 kbps speed, and the bandwidth has been increased to 512 kbps. Currently CIRDAP is maintaining its ICT services with 31 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. Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals have also been maintained throughout the year without any hindrance. Newly bought peripherals for the laptop enabled CP to keep a check on LAN and WAN even on holidays.

The other features of the website have been given below:

- CIRDAP is operating its web-based activities under two domains namely www.cirdap.org.sg and www.cirdap.org

- About 29 e-mail accounts 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.

III. 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 the expectation. CIRDAP Website continued to get linked to important websites and facilitate services to academics, researchers etc. All important CIRDAP publications issued during the year 2008 were made available on the website in PDF format. These are becoming popular among users. As a new feature, a database on 'APJORD Abstracts' to the Website was added.

IV. Library Services

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

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. It also continued to maintain databases of Census and Statistics Departments and Central Banks of the CIRDAP Member Countries on the website. The reference section was updated to include 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. Regular library activities (e.g. processing, accessioning, database entry, shelving books/ periodicals/newspaper clipping etc.) were carried out.

V. Audio-Visual Services

The services of a professional photographer were engaged to cover major events. Selected photographs were posted on the website, event wise. Multi-media services were provided to all CIRDAP events. Action was taken to maintain proper records of audio-visuals and preserve them in CDs.

VI. Public Relations

As in the previous year, ICD strengthened its public relations programmes in the year 2008 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 is 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.

Recent CIRDAP Publications

- Poverty Focussed Rural Good Governance in Asian Commonwealth Countries. Training Series No.75. CIRDAP 2008.
- Appropriate Technology for Rural Women. Study Series No. 203. CIRDAP 2008.
- 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. 2006.
- Rural Development Report 2005. Study Series No. 199. 2005.
- Guidelines for Good Governance. Training Series No. 74. CIRDAP 2005.
- Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Success Stories in CIRDAP Countries. Study Series No. 198. CIRDAP 2004.
- Governance, Partnership and Poverty. Training Series No. 73. CIRDAP 2003.
- Asian Financial Crisis and South Asia. Study Series No. 196. CIRDAP 2003.
- Empowerment of Women in CIRDAP Member Countries: Experiences and Issues. Study Series No. 195. CIRDAP 2003.
- Community Initiative for Fisheries Development: An Evaluation of the Pankowri Fishery Project in Daudkandi, Bangladesh. Study Series No. 194. CIRDAP 2002.
- Economic Reforms, Natural Resources and Environment in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Study Series No. 13. CIRDAP 2001.
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- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVII, No. 1. July 2007.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVI, No. 2. December 2006.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVI, No. 1. July 2006.
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- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 1. July 2005.
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Administration and Finance

- Policy Body Meetings
- Activities Performed
- Organisational Structure
- Audit of the Accounts



Administration

The principal activities of the Administration and Finance Division are to render support services to the Office of Director General and all Programme Divisions. The services include arranging meetings of CIRDAP policy bodies viz. Technical Committee (TC), Executive Committee (EC) and Governing Council (GC), implementation of the decisions of the above meetings related to the administration and financial matters, tenure/increment of the staff-members, protocol duties, developing/managing/utilising personnel, 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 & Co-operatives, Housing & Public Works and the departments concerned for ensuring all diplomatic facilities, construction and renovation work of CIRDAP Complex etc.

The Division recommends and administers financial policies/procedures, 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 (ICC): As reported in the Annual Report-2007, Ministry of LGRD and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh, has approved the proposal for construction of Six Story International Conference Centre (ICC) in CIRDAP HQs at an estimated amount of Approximate US\$23,45,588. 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. Out of this amount, Public Works Department spent an amount of 500 lakh in 2007-2008, and the rest amount of Tk.499.45 lakh was allotted for 2008-2009 financial year. Later on due to increase of floor area, to make entire wall of auditorium by RCC, due to some changes in architectural design, inclusion of few new items in the estimate and to have machineries, fittings, furniture and other materials of international standard, the PWD has submitted a revised estimate amounting to Tk.1834.87 lakh which is an increase of Tk.835.42 lakh from the original estimate.

Ministry of Finance was requested by Rural Development and Co-operatives Division on 7 December 2008 to approve the revised estimate amounting to Tk.835.42 lakh in 2008-2009 financial year, but Ministry of Finance refused to approve the same.

Personnel Advisory Committee: The Personnel 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 2008, 21 PAC meetings were convened.

Recruitment: During 2008, two general staff-members - Finance Officer and Computer Programmer and one temporary staff - Driver, were recruited in the respective vacant posts.

Appointment of Director General and Ministerial Retreat: A working paper was prepared for Special Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP held in New Delhi, India during 24-26 June 2008 for appointment of the Director General, CIRDAP for the period 2008-2012. Logistic and administrative support was provided to organise the Special GC Meeting and Ministerial Retreat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development, India to enhance sustainable livelihoods, promote gender equality and leveraging information and communication technology for alleviation of poverty in the CIRDAP member states.

Screening Committee Meeting: For the appointment of Director General for the period 2008-2012, two screening committee meetings were held. The first one was held on 14 January, and the second one was on 5 February 2008.

Purchase and Maintenance: The Purchase and Maintenance Committee of CIRDAP which looks after the cost, quality, necessity etc. regarding any purchase/maintenance of property/ supply/ equipment of the Centre and provides suggestions/ recommendations/ and comments in order to

take decision by the authority and management. A total of 87 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2008.

Protocol Support: Administration provided required protocol support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA for the traveller, attending airport to receive and see the traveller off, arranging accommodation, lunch, dinner, supplies, transport etc. for traveller, contacting embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for the visas of the traveller to organise all the CIRDAP programmes during 2008. Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staff of CIRDAP in getting renewal of their passport/visa, arrangement for accommodation, renewal of agreements with the land lord etc.

Construction of Cafeteria: Due to the construction of International Conference Centre, CIRDAP Cafeteria was shifted to the eastern side of the Chameli House Complex. Public Works Department of Bangladesh constructed a long tin-shed building for Cafeteria which was inaugurated by the Director General of CIRDAP on 13 March 2008. Besides, arrangements were done for the maintenance of the garden in a befitting manner.

Staff Development: As a part of the staff development, Mr. M. Mahbub Alam, Personnel Assistant was allowed to undertake a Post-graduate Diploma on Human Resource Management at the Institute of Personnel Management, Dhaka. The Centre bore the cost of the training course for Mr. Alam.

Foundation Day Programme: 29th Founding Anniversary programme was organised on 6 July 2008 in CIRDAP Headquarters. On this occasion, arrangements were made for recording and telecasting discussion programmes by a number of satellite TV channels. Besides, to arrange discussion programmes in the TV channels by the Information and Communication Division (ICD), logistic and administrative support was provided to the ICD.

Legal Matters: Liaison was maintained with the lawyers, and papers containing necessary information were prepared in connection with legal matters of CIRDAP.

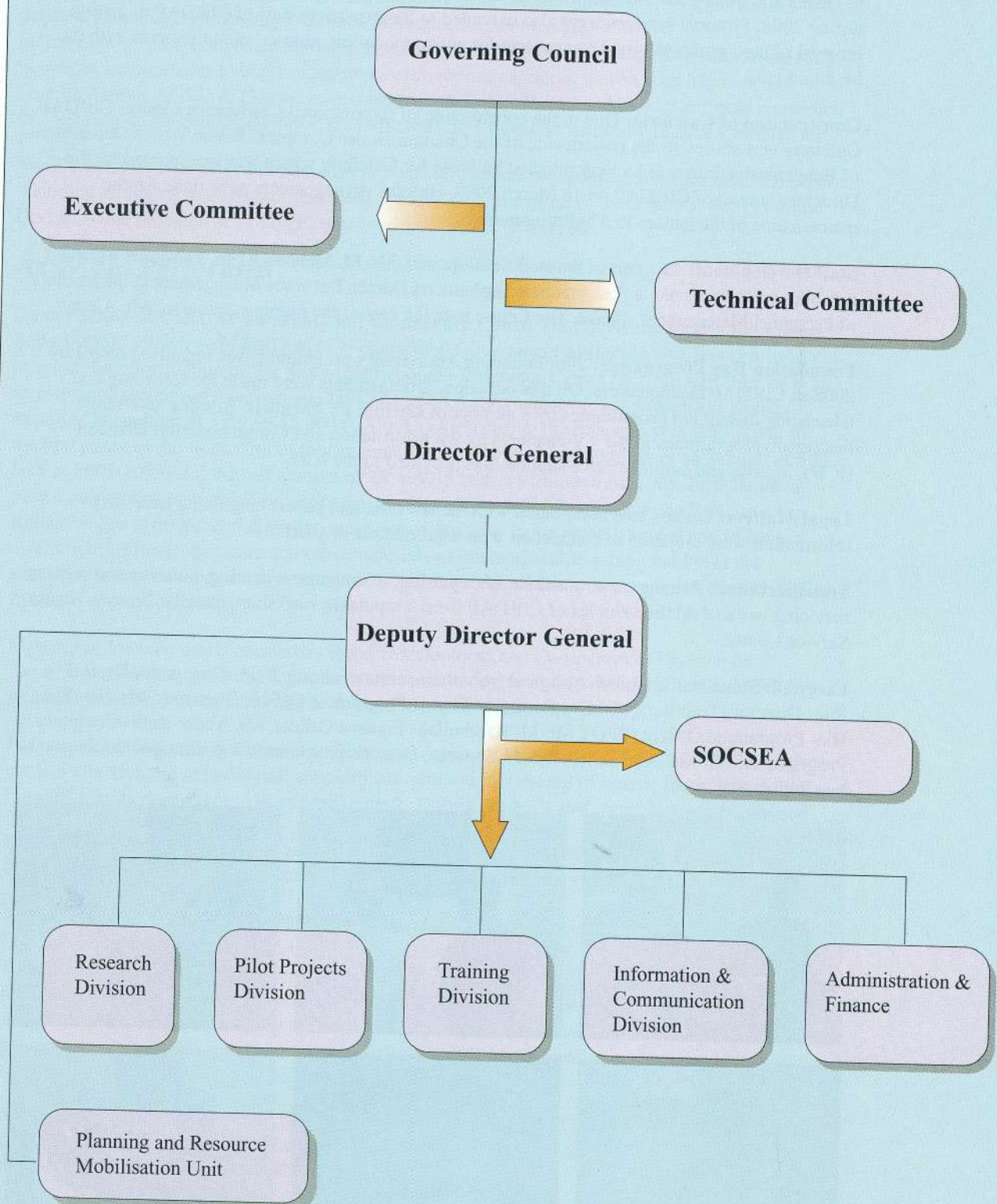
Transportation: Arrangement was done for repairing, maintenance, denting, painting and regular servicing work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP from a reputable workshop, namely, Navana Toyota Service Centre.

Farewell: Some staff-members resigned from their services during 2008. They were: Dr. B.S. Rao- Director (Training), Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon- Programme Officer (Reserch), Ms. San San Hla- Programme Officer (PPD), Mr. M. Habibullah- Finance Officer, Mr. Abdur Rafe- Computer Programmer, Mr. Md. Abu Taher- Driver. Separate farewell programme was arranged to say good-bye to them.



Staff-members given farewell in 2008

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



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 2007 were US\$594,691.00, and financial support for new and ongoing projects amounted to US\$544,216.53. CIRDAP provided US\$ 7,563.64 out of its Special Reserve Fund for programme activities.

Audit of the Accounts

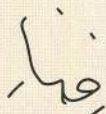
The Final accounts of the Centre for the Biennium (2006-2007) were audited by Mr. Ahmed Fazil Bin Osman, Senior Auditor and Mr. Asfullah bin Asari, Assistant Auditor from Ministry of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia, from 20 April to 29 April 2008. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Report and the financial statements for the Biennium (2006-2007) have been furnished below:

AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP FOR THE BIENNIUM YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

I have audited the financial statements of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) for the biennium year 2006-2007 ended 31st December 2007 and related statements for the biennium year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of CIRDAP. My responsibility is to audit and to express an opinion on these 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 except for the assets amount of USD 54,250.31 (purchased from Depreciation Reserved Fund and Trust Fund) which is reported at the book value inconsistent with the asset of the General Fund that was reported at its net depreciated value. This report is to be read together with the Auditor's Observation attached.



AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN

External Auditor

National Audit Department


Malaysia


Dhaka, 13 May 2008


CIRDAP
Consolidated Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)
Final Accounts as on December 31, 2007

Account Code	Assets	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$	Notes	2006-2007 Biennium in US\$
40100	Cash in Hand	8,861.09	1	7,164.87
40200	Cash in Banks	731,353.56	1	394,604.96
40300	Investment in Banks	-	1	495,400.18
40000	Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks	740,214.65		897,170.01
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	116,396.69		158,324.55
40402	Advance to Staff	34,237.14	2	172,585.02
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	5,811.07	4	2,515.97
40404	Other Accounts Receivables	3,038.98	5	38.28
40000	Subtotal of Receivables	159,483.88		333,463.82
80000	Fixed Assets	389,103.79	1	13,584.78
	Asset - auditorium/conference room income charged to DRF			30,386.46
	Asset purchased from project account			24,209.47
	Asset purchased from DRF - as per ledger 2007			3,654.38
80000	Subtotal of Fixed Assets	389,103.79		71,835.09
	Total Assets	1,288,802.32		1,302,468.92
Liabilities and Net Assets				
10101	Accrued Salary and allowances	-		-
10102	Other Accounts Payable	6,136.94	6	7,542.23
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	-		14.10
	Subtotal of Total Liabilities	6,136.94		7,556.33
	Net Assets			
20100	General Fund (GF)	250,369.28		411,159.56
80000	Fixed Assets	389,103.79		-
	Subtotal of General Fund	639,473.07		411,159.56
20200	Trust Fund (TF)	312,293.06		454,037.42
20300	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317.00		130,317.00
20400	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	184,253.06		280,964.91
20500	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	16,329.19		18,433.70
	Subtotal of Other Funds	643,192.31		883,753.03
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,288,802.32		1,302,468.92

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


Finance Officer
Dhaka, December 31, 2007


Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, December 31, 2007

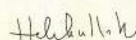

Director General
Dhaka, December 31, 2007


AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN
External Auditor
National Audit Department
Malaysia

CIRDAP
General Fund (GF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Biennium ended December 31, 2007

Account Code	Income	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$	2006-2007 Biennium in US\$
20100	Opening Balance of Fund	666,142.46	639,473.07
	Less : Assets retained per contra as on 31 December 2005	(369,860.10)	
	Less : Amount transferred to DRF		375,577.41
		296,282.36	263,895.66
	Less : Advance from WCF	(120,000.00)	
	Advance from DRF	(150,000.00)	
		26,282.36	263,895.66
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 2007	(50,000.00)	(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	1,179,977.00
70200	Miscellaneous Income	53,340.72	99,923.15
	Total Income	1,286,469.31	1,493,795.81
	Expenditure		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	233,300.48	284,229.87
80102	General Staff Salary	293,888.79	276,303.36
80104	General Staff Overtime	5,147.00	4,798.76
		532,336.27	565,331.99
80200	Common Staff Cost	104,705.11	94,457.57
80300	Official Travels	116,752.21	136,087.35
80400	External Audit	5,061.45	6,200.00
80600	General Operating Expenses	235,654.93	263,971.23
80700	Supplies and Materials	22,346.37	16,588.11
80800	Acquisition of Assets	19,243.69	
	Total Expenses	1,036,100.03	1,082,636.25
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	250,369.28	411,159.56

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



Finance Officer
Dhaka, December 31, 2007



Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, December 31, 2007



Director General
Dhaka, December 31, 2007

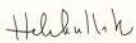



AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN
External Auditor
National Audit Department
Malaysia


CIRDAP
Trust Fund (TF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Biennium ended December 31,2007

Account Code	Income	2004-2005 Biennium in US\$	2006-2007 Biennium in US\$
20200	Opening Balance of Fund	212,397.41	312,293.06
20200	Allocation From Special Reserve Fund		
	During the Year 2004-2005	41,500.00	-
	During the Year 2006-2007	-	7,563.64
		41,500.00	7,563.64
10102	Adjustment of Payables	-	-
70301	UN Agency Contribution	55,250.00	190,000.00
70302	Country Contributions (JAPAN)	-	-
70303	Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	593,594.82	481,147.53
		648,844.82	671,147.53
Total Income		902,742.23	991,004.23
Expenditure			
90100	Research Projects	19,120.74	54,335.76
90200	Pilot Projects	282,885.93	176,905.76
90300	Training Projects	261,102.67	311,909.94
90400	Doc. & Information Projects	27,339.83	18,024.82
	Adjustment : Total assets purchased		(24,209.47)
Total Expenses		590,449.17	536,966.81
Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)		312,293.06	454,037.42

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

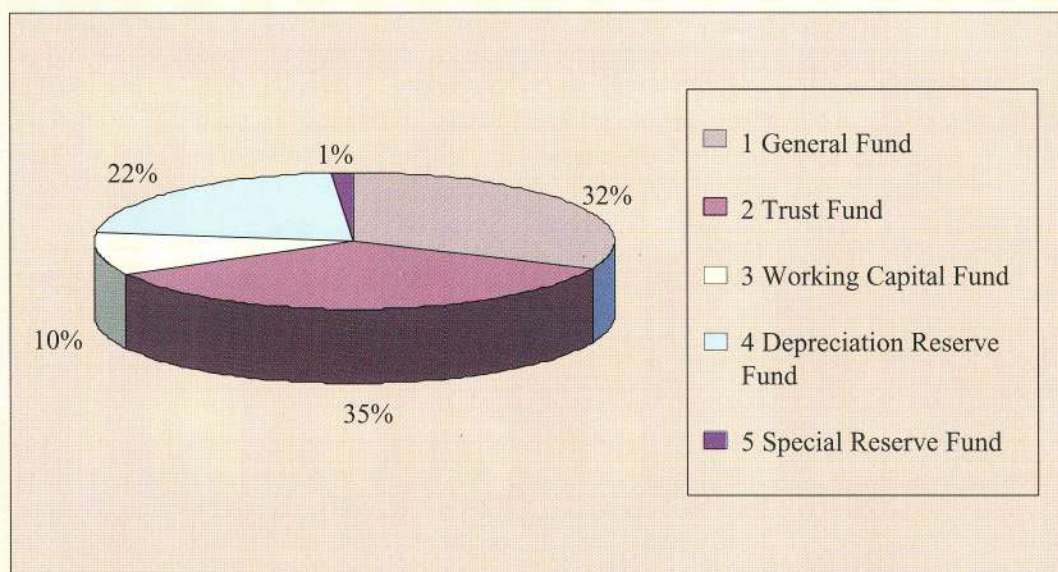

Finance Officer
Dhaka, December 31, 2007


Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, December 31, 2007


Director General
Dhaka, December 31, 2007


AHMAD FAZLI BIN OSMAN
External Auditor
National Audit Department
Malaysia

CIRDAP Fund Status As at 31st December 2007		
Sl #	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	411,160
2	Trust Fund	454,037
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	280,965
5	Special Reserve Fund	18,434
	Total	1,294,913

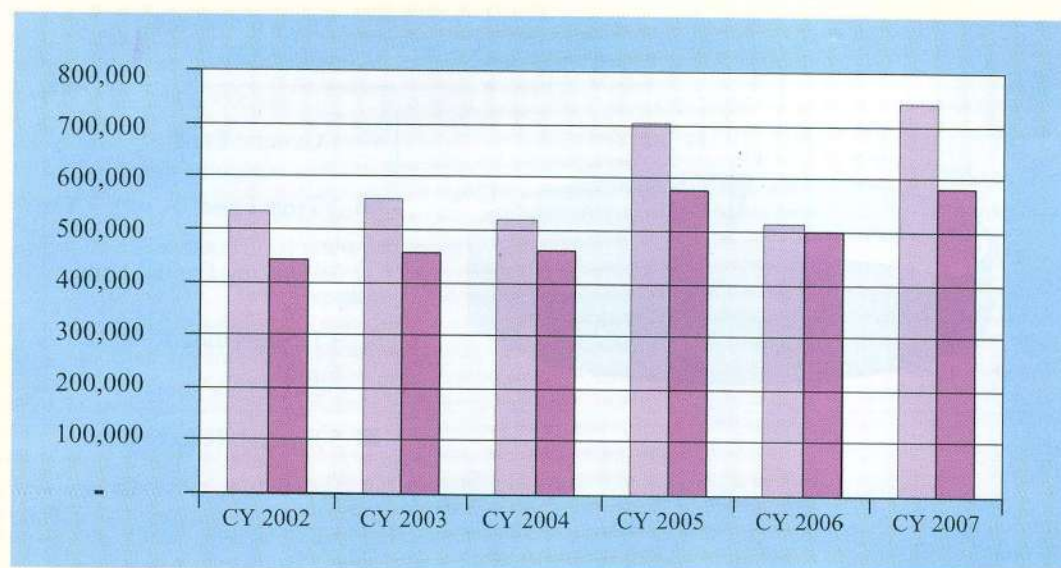


CIRDAP General Fund

Amount in US\$

	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007
Budget	531,202	556,320	518,667	702,024	513,323	742,692
Actual	442,978	456,903	460,252	575,848	498,763	583,873

■ Budget ■ Actual



Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP

During the period from June 2007 to February 2009, SOCSEA in collaboration with various regional governments and organisations has undertaken four regional projects and five in-country programmes.

Regional Programme

Result Based Management Performance Indicators: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is increasingly recognised as an indispensable tool of both project and portfolio management. There is a wide felt-need to improve the performance of development projects. This calls for proper attention to the provision of management information, both to support the implementation of projects and programmes and to provide feed back into the design of new initiatives. M&E also provides a basis for accountability in the use of development resources. M&E is an integral and important part of the project cycle. No project is considered complete or successful without a proper M&E.

Recognising the importance role of M&E in ensuring the improved design of future national development of CIRDAP member countries, CIRDAP and SOCSEA in collaboration with the Government of India e. g. National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) has organised the Regional Training Programme on Result Based Management Performance Indicators: Monitoring and Evaluation on 13-21 October 2008 in Bali, Indonesia.

The training programme was participated in by 28 participants from 12 CIRDAP member countries. Representatives from Lao PDR and Myanmar were not able to attend the training programme. The training programme was the third regional training programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA held in Indonesia in collaboration with NIRD, India.

To enrich the information for participants, a field study was organised to the office of the Agency for Planning and Development (BAPPEDA) of Bali Province and of Badung Regency to have a comparative study on the system of M&E being undertaken by BAPPEDA Bali and to observe the Community-Based Development (CBD) Project being carried out under the National Programme for Community Empowerment (PNPM) Mandiri in Badung Regency.

Renewable Energy

Rural development in developing countries has been given high priority. Programmes to empower rural communities have been in place. Infrastructure such as roads, bridges and electricity have been improved to support socio-economic activities. However, the governments are still facing problem in ensuring sufficient supply of energy to the whole people. One of the solutions to this problem is to identify and develop new and renewable sources of energy which is locally available and relatively affordable, sustainable and appropriate for local communities.

Indonesia and Myanmar have been successfully developing alternative renewable energy projects. Some project plants powered by abundant resources such as wind, garbage, river, biomass have



been successfully built to provide electricity. These plants are basically managed through public-private partnership scheme. Most projects have tremendously supported government efforts to solve electricity problem. Besides enjoying electricity, villages also earn money from the plants by selling electricity to the government. Recently the Government of Indonesia is seriously developing a new alternative renewable energy by producing bio-diesel from the *jatropha curcas* which is easily grown by rural people. Indonesia is willing to share its experience with other developing countries.

In this regard the Government of Indonesia c. q. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in collaboration with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia (SOCSEA) organised the Training Workshop on Renewable Energy on 25 February-1 March 2008 in Bali, Indonesia.

The Training Workshop was the fifth regional programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and NAM CSSTC under the MoU between CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC. The training workshop was participated in by 39 participants representing 11 CIRDAP member countries. Representatives from three member countries were not able to attend the training.

The purpose of the training workshop was to share knowledge and experiences on renewable energy plants operated in developing countries. The objective of the training workshop is to provide participants with basic knowledge on appropriate engineering aspects and social preparation as well as development plan of waste-based power plant applying GALFAD (Gassification, Landfill, Anaerobic Digestion) developed in Bali.

During the training workshop, a field visit was organised to the SARBAGITA Integrated Waste Management Project and Power Plant at Suwung Village, Denpasar, Bali. The project is functioning as the End Waste Disposal Site and Power Plant covering Denpasar Municipality, Badung, Gianyar and Tabanan Regencies. The name SARBAGITA reflects the areas covered under the project which is one of the start-up development of waste based electric power as an alternative and renewable energy. The project received appreciation and visited by the participants of the Global Conference on Climate Change held in Bali recently.

Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Asia-Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on 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 Organisations. Upon the invitation from the UNESCAP ESD, the SOCSEA participated in the meeting.

Women Empowerment and Development through Enterprise Promotion

A training 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, representing 11 CMCs. Unfortunately three member countries were not able to participate in the training.

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 UN Decade for Advancement of Women (1976-85) with the concern that development policies have ignored the needs of poor women in Third World countries. The new emphasis has had many agencies to commit themselves to women in their development policies, to enable women to enjoy fruits of development and to make necessary and appropriate contribution to the development process. Women's groups are being financed to set up income-generating projects. A parallel development is setting-up of Ministries, Commission etc. for the empowerment of women. Self-help group based on microcredit institutions is becoming a global strategy for development and empowerment of women. Other examples are in the field of technology incubators, women's industrial estates, women finance corporations, women entrepreneur association etc.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To facilitate the participants understanding on gender relations, gender roles and setting a development agenda for women
- To strengthening 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 micro-enterprises and forming savings and credit groups for women
- To develop their managerial capacities to initiate, manage and sustain delivery system

In-Country Programme

Production of Durian Jelly for Woman Micro-enterprise Empowerment

A training on Skill Enhancement in Production of Durian Jelly for Woman Micro-Enterprise Empowerment was held on 25-26 August 2008 in Pengadegan Sub-District, Purbalingga, Central Java, Indonesia. The training was jointly organised by SOCSEA in collaboration with the Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency c. q. Agency for Community Empowerment of Purbalingga (BAPPERMAS).

The training was the first in-country programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA convened in Indonesia in the year 2008. The training was the fourth CIRDAP/SOCSEA undertaking in collaboration with the Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency. It was attended by 118 participants representing local Centres on Integrated Women Empowerment (CIWE) and members of the Financial Management Unit (UPK)-Saving & Lending Group of the National Programme for Community Empowerment (PNPM) Mandiri of Purbalingga Regency and Staffs of BAPPERMAS and the Regional Office of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of Purbalingga Regency.

Durian is being grown in huge number by the community members in Purbalingga, particularly in Pengadegan Sub-District. Although the price of durian relatively high compared to other kinds of

fruit, many people in Indonesia and also some other countries like durian. Therefore, when the harvest season of durian comes, many farmers or durian grower in Purbalingga particularly Pengadegan Sub-District become richer or in other words enhance their income and welfare instantly.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To provide knowledge to the members of Woman Welfare Association (PKK) of Purbalingga Regency, particularly the Pengadegan Sub-District regarding durian that has high economic value;
- To introduce the technical detail to produce durian jelly (dodol durian) from selected durian fruit;
- To enhance the family income by developing woman micro-enterprise;
- To reduce the level of unemployment and create employment opportunities for community.

The whole programme of the Woman Micro-Enterprise Empowerment will be undertaken in six months beginning with the training for members of PKK.

Production of Varieties of Brown Sugar as Women Economic Empowerment

The training on 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, particularly Centres on Integrated Woman Empowerment (CIWA), Woman Welfare Association (PKK) and Woman SMEs in Purbalingga Regency.

The idea of organising the training was mooted by the Regent of Purbalingga while realising that coconut trees are growing abundantly at all areas of Purbalingga Regency since time immemorial. Community members in Purbalingga are only utilising the coconut for producing cooking oil. With the development of modern technology, people are now producing VCO (Virgin Coconut Oil) as medicine, cosmetic etc. Having recognised the outcome of the research activities undertaken by the experts, the Purbalingga Regent agreed to organise the training in collaboration with SOCSEA.

Utilisation of Varieties of Mushroom for Production on Nutrition Rich Food

The training on Utilisation of Varieties of Mushroom for Production on Nutrition Rich Food was held on 29-30 August 2007 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia as a joint programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA and Regional Government of Yogyakarta Special Region particularly the Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives. The training was attended by 30 representatives from small and medium enterprise in Yogyakarta participated in the training.

Mushroom has been known since long time ago that generally grown wild in the forest or garden and was not cultivated yet by the community. Less than one per cent of the varieties of mushroom has high economic value. However, some varieties of mushroom have great potential as agriculture and forestry produce and also as raw material for medicine. Although mushroom has small value so far, many people are growing different varieties of mushroom either as side business or main business activities since it needs only simple technology.

In line with the increase of demand in the market, people are usually growing varieties of mushroom that have great potential in agribusiness such as Shimezi (Jamur Tiram), Hiratake (Jamur Kuping), Champignon (Jamur Kumpor) and Shitake (Jamur Hitam). According to its economic value, the varieties of mushroom mostly produced for consumption, include 1) Shimezi and Oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus Ostreatus*) and Heratake (*Auri Cularia Polytrichaea*).

The varieties of mushroom mostly produced as raw material for medicine include: 1) Ling Zhi (*Ganoderma Lucedus*); 2) Champignon; 3) Shitake (*Lentinus Edoded*). Realising that a lot of

varieties of mushroom can be easily grown and processed for producing nutrition rich food, while on the other hand, considering a lot of community members are facing difficulty in their economic business, it is necessary to organise Training on Utilisation of Varieties of Mushroom for Production of Nutrition Rich Food.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To provide the community particularly SMEs in food sector with appropriate knowledge to enable them produce good quality product;
- To provide the community with knowledge regarding the permitted and prohibited ingredient to be added to food product;
- To familiarise the community with the regulations relating to the use of preservative for food product.

Improvement of Preservation Technology in Wood Handicraft Small Industry for Enhancing Community Income

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. A total of 20 representatives from wooden based small industries in Yogyakarta participated in the training.

The Provisional Data of 2006 shows a great number i.e. 71.984 unit of small and medium industries were involved in undertaking business activities in the Province of Yogyakarta Special Region covering various Special Region covering various business sectors such as: 31.513 unit Food Industry, 4.368 unit textile and leather, 11.699 unit Chemical and Construction material; 2.738 unit metal and electronic, 21.566 unit handicraft.

During the year 2006, the Small and Medium Industry in Yogyakarta with total investment of about Rp.587.459.680.000 has been able to provide employment to 231.682 manpower, in general term the SMEs provided and has increased the income of community. The Regional Government of Yogyakarta Special Province has earned a value of US\$135.023.071.80 from exporting 40.532.911,13 kg product of handicraft industry. Among the main export commodities of Yogyakarta Special Region include wooden furniture and various kinds of handicraft made of wood. In fact, there are a lot of small and medium industries in Yogyakarta using wood as raw material, such as building/housing construction material; wooden furniture; wood carving; jewellery box; photo/picture frame; household appliances; education tools and children toys. The small and medium industries particularly the small industries in Yogyakarta are still facing various obstacles such as the supply of raw material; business capital, marketing and some other technical aspects. The constraints being faced by wooden based small industries which need to be seriously addressed is the appropriate preservation technology. In this regard SOCSEA in collaboration with the Regional Government of Yogyakarta Special Region particularly the Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Service agreed to organise the Training on Improvement of Preservation Technology in Wood Handicraft Small Industry for Enhancing Community Income.

Empowerment of Coastal Community through Development of Coastal Women Participation

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 attended by 30 participants representing regional governments of 14 regencies. The workshop was also the part of the earlier workshop which was participated in by representatives of local governments from 93 regencies out of 441 regencies in Indonesia.

The Government of Indonesia continuously taking efforts aiming at enhancing the role and status of women. Statistical data show that the number of female inhabitants in Indonesia is slightly above than those of male, namely 50.3 per cent. Such huge number of female inhabitants will

constitute a great potential and asset for national development if it is supported by high quality of women. Women are actively participated in various aspects of national development such as fishery. A study by experts found that 79.3 per cent wives of fishermen involve in the struggle for enhancing income of a family. However the fact so far shows that despite hard efforts undertaken by women folk, has yet able to enhance the welfare of fishermen's family. Taking this into account while also considering other related factors, it is necessary to undertake integrated programmes for empowerment of coastal women such as by organising the workshop.

Other Matters

Extension of MoU between CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC

CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC agreed to extend the MoU for another two years from 15 March 2008 to 14 March 2010.

The MoU between CIRDAP and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) was signed in Jakarta, Indonesia on 14 March 2005 for the duration of three years terminated on 14 March 2008. In January 2008 Director General CIRDAP has sent a letter to Director of NAM CSSTC proposing the extension of MoU. In response to CIRDAP proposal, NAM CSSTC agreed to extend the MoU for another two years.

During the visit to Indonesia in February 2008, Director General of CIRDAP held a meeting with Director NAM CSSTC in Bali, to discuss the extension of the MoU and the programme to be undertaken in the future. It was agreed that the extension of the MoU will be done by Exchange of Notes but maintaining the original text of the MoU with Addendum of Article 6.

During the period from 14 March 2005 to 14 March 2008, CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC have undertaken five regional activities: Regional Training Workshop on Renewable Energy held on 25 February-1 March 2008 in Bali, Indonesia; Training on Renewable Energy 'Micro Hydro Power for Rural Development' held on 7-12 May 2007 in Bandung and Subang, Indonesia; Regional Training Workshop on Enhancing Women's Role in SMEs Development held on 18-22 September 2006 in Bali, Indonesia; International Training (Asia-Pacific) Course on Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Project held on 5-14 December 2005 in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia; and International Training Programme on Micro-Enterprise, Micro-Finance and Marketing of Rural Product held on 1-6 August 2005 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The five CIRDAP-NAM CSSTC joint programmes were attended by 121 participants from all CIRDAP member countries. Being the CIRDAP regional office in Jakarta, SOCSEA is continuing facilitating the implementation of activities under the CIRDAP-NAM CSSTC cooperation.

Process for Establishment of CIRDAP - ASEAN Collaboration

- a) In response to the letter from Director General, CIRDAP to Secretary General, ASEAN dated 14 November 1997, ASEAN Secretariat invited CIRDAP to attend the Expert Group Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) held on 17-19 December 1997 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Accordingly the Director General, CIRDAP along with Director Research, CIRDAP attended the meeting.
- b) Subsequently Director General, CIRDAP and Head of SOCSEA had several discussions with Director of Functional Cooperation ASEAN Secretariat. Upon the invitation from ASEAN, Director General CIRDAP attended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOM RDPE) in December 2002 in Siemreap, Cambodia.
- c) After discussion of Head of SOCSEA with officials of ASEAN Secretariat and as a follow-up of CIRDAP presentation during ASEAN SOM RDPE, SOCSEA submitted three CIRDAP/SOCSEA proposals to ASEAN Secretariat:

- Training Course/Workshop on Rapid/Participatory Rural Appraisal
 - Regional Training Programme on Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, Micro-enterprise Building/Small Business Opportunities in Rural /Semi Urban Area
 - International Training Programme on Sustainable Village Development and Community Development
- d) During the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-24) and Fourteenth Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-14) in Jakarta on 22-26 August 2003, representative from ASEAN Secretariat stated ASEAN desired to support the programme activities of CIRDAP.
- e) In pursuance with the request of Director General, CIRDAP to ASEAN Secretariat for realising CIRDAP-ASEAN collaboration on 11 April 2008, SOCSEA had a meeting with Dr. Anish Kumar Roy, Director for the Office of Coordination, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta and discussed again the matter.

During the meeting Dr. Anish Kumar Roy stated that CIRDAP's vision and priority areas are in line with ASEAN's Framework Action Plan of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2004-2010). Subsequently during the visit of CIRDAP Evaluation Committee to ASEAN Secretariat on 30 October 2008, Dr. Anish Kumar Roy repeated his earlier statement that in principle ASEAN has the same views with CIRDAP on the need to have an ASEAN-CIRDAP MoU as the basis for ASEAN-CIRDAP cooperation as has been done for ASEAN cooperation with an international organisation for women.

However, since its procedure may need sometime, Dr. Anish Kumar Roy proposed to start with small collaboration activity for community capacity building such as by organising training on microfinance for CIRDAP member countries. This may be followed by inviting Director General CIRDAP to attend the forthcoming ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOM RDPE) to be held in Thailand in 2009. Dr. Anish Kumar Roy requested CIRDAP/SOCSEA to prepare concept paper for consideration by ASEAN Secretariat.

Visit of CIRDAP Evaluation Committee

Being the regional office of CIRDAP in Jakarta, SOCSEA has facilitated the CIRDAP Evaluation Committee (CEC) during their visit to Indonesia on 28 October-1 November 2008.

During the visit, the CEC members: Prof. Dr. Yoshiro Kaida and Mdm. Zainon bt. Hj. Md. Nasir had meeting with Secretary General and Director General of Community and Village Empowerment of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia, represented Mr. Nuryanto, Head of the Centre for Management of Overseas Cooperation, followed by meeting with Secretary General of ASEAN and Director of NAM CSSTC held on 31 October 2008 and 1 November 2008, respectively.

Recognising the great potentials of NAM CSSTC in terms of expertise as well as fund, Prof. Kaida requested Director NAM CSSTC to enhance their collaboration with CIRDAP. Mdm. Zainon had a meeting with SOCSEA on 30 October 2008 while meeting of SOCSEA with Prof. Kaida was held on 31 October 2008 at SOCSEA.

Highlighting the efforts of SOCSEA for improving its function, representative of SOCSEA referred to the presentation made during GC-13 in Nepal in 2003 which requested EC/GC to make SOCSEA as the second campus of CIRDAP. Subsequently, the GC-16 in Manila in 2007 approved the recommendation of the CIRDAP Sub-Committee established by GC-15 that SOCSEA should be empowered as the second campus and an extended arm of CIRDAP which should be equipped with proper fund, manpower and expertise to enable SOCSEA fully functioning as the sub-regional office of CIRDAP as stipulated in the agreement of its establishment.

Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

*Sharing Experiences from
the Philippines*



Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Sharing Experiences from the Philippines

*Policy Dialogue Report 2, August 2007, ©
CIRDAP, ISBN: 984-8104-51-5.*

Price: US\$7 for CMCs, US\$10 for Others.

Agrarian Reforms in the Philippines is regarded as the success story to solve the centuries old problem of landlessness in rural areas through its Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) initiated in 1987, and many countries can learn from its successes.

This publication is the report of the second policy dialogue of CIRDAP held in Manila, Philippines on 30 May 2007, where policy makers of different levels from the 14 member countries participated in and discussed the agenda of land reform from a Philippines perspective, and addressed the issue of regional cooperation among the countries.

*For copies, please write to: Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP
Tel: (880 2) 7169824-5, 9558751. Fax (880 2) 9562035. E-mail: infocom@cirdap.org*

Invitation for Articles

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

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

Typescripts should be submitted in duplicate, on A4 size paper, typewritten on one side in double space, with margins of at least 2.54 cm. Statistical tables, illustrations and charts should be submitted on separate sheets and their positions indicated in the text. APJORD follows the Chicago Manual of Style for preparing articles. A note to the contributors is available at the back pages of any issue of the Journal or can be found at our web site at www.cirdap.org.sg. For further details, please contact the Editor.

CIRDAP Staff Profile



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 to 2004), Nepal. A Consulting Specialist, Dr. Paudyal served several national and international organisations in Nepal. He was also a professional staff-member of CIRDAP from 1986 to 1995. He has contributed a lot in the policy-making process of Nepal as a member of the High Level Decentralisation 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



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

[M.Sc. Development Communication, University of Philippines at Los Banos]
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 joined CIRDAP on 1 July 2005.



Dr. Nasreen Khundker, Bangladesh

[Ph.D. in Economics, U.S.A.]

Director, Research

Dr. Nasreen, Professor of Economics at the University of Dhaka, is a reputed researcher and has published her research 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 during 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 joined CIRDAP as Director, Research in April 2007.



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

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 (CLP) implemented by RDCD with financial and technical support from DFID. His areas of specialisations 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 field of Rural and Social Development; Co-operatives; Microfinance; Human Security; Participatory Rural Development and Local Government in Japan; and Rural Regional Development Planning etc. Mr. Majibar Rahman has joined CIRDAP in June 2006.



Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Bangladesh

[B.A (Hons), M.A. in History, M.A. in International Relations,
L.L.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 - Contact Ministry of CIRDAP. Though his expertise is on Administration and Management, he has developed knowledge and expertise in rural development of Bangladesh while he worked as Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Head of a small Administrative Unit under district) and Deputy Project Director under the Ministry of LGRD and Co-operatives. Mr. Anisuzzaman has joined CIRDAP in February 2005.



Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Bangladesh

[Master's in Statistics, Dhaka University]
Assistant Programme Officer

Mr. Rahman gained wide experience in the field of sustainable development and environment and related issues, with his active involvement in the multidisciplinary research/action research projects of CIRDAP. An expert-trainer of participatory development programmes and a resource person in a number of seminars/workshops, Mr. Rahman is trained in statistical methods; community nutrition; research methodology and management of rural development projects; project design, monitoring and evaluation; poverty measurement and analysis; social accounting matrix; general algebraic modelling system; computerised information system; spreadsheet analysis using Lotus 1-2-3; and programming on Cobol and Foxpro. He has authored/coauthored a number of research articles and publications of the Centre. Mr. Rahman worked as a project staff in the project 'Food Control Drainage and Irrigation (FCDI)' since 1986 prior to his formal joining in CIRDAP in 1991.



Mr. David Hilton, Bangladesh

[B.S.S. (Hons.), M.S.S. in Govt. & Politics, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh;
M.S. in Economic Development, Eastern University, U.S.A.]
Assistant Programme Officer

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. He also 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.



Muhammad Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh

[M.Com in Accounting; MBA in Finance- EWU, CA (cc)]
Finance Officer

Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain has intensive experience on budgeting, financial planning and reporting, ratio analysis, fund management, company law, local TAX & VAT. He has eight-year job experience in Accounts & Finance section. He worked in Asian Consumer Care, a multinational and a joint venture of Dabur International & ACI Ltd, ACI Centre. He worked also PRAN-RFL Group, a large food manufacturing company in Bangladesh, as Assistant Manager (Accounts & Fund Management). Mr. Hossain has Joined CIRDAP in April 2008.



Engr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Bangladesh

[B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engg., DUET;
M. Sc in Computer Science & Engg., DIU]
Computer Programmer

Mr. Md. Waliul Hasnat is an IT professional with comprehensive technical skills and expertise on Information Technology, Computer Hardware and Network Management. He is conversant with most of the computer software packages along with essential utility software programmes. Before joining CIRDAP, he has worked in SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in Dhaka as an IT Manager. He also worked at the Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh as an IT Engineer. He has carried out numerous IT projects and assignments in national and international organisations. He has experience to prepare Specifications, Tender Documents and Procurement as per Public Procurement Regulation 2003 (PPR03). Mr. Hasnat has joined CIRDAP in August 2008.



Mr. Safiul Azam, Bangladesh

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

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



Ms. Zeenat Ahmed, Bangladesh

[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 Communications Officer. Ms. Zeenat has joined CIRDAP in August 1994.



Dr. Usharani Boruah, India

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

Librarian

Dr. Usharani Boruah served as a Librarian in various Organisations for more than 8 years. She worked as Librarian in the Indian Embassy, Moscow and Indian International School, Moscow, Russia. She worked as Librarian of the University of Development Alternative (UODA) Dhaka, Bangladesh and also as Medical Librarian in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. Dr. Usharani has vast experience in Library Development Education Programmes, Community Development Education Programme, Ethnic Development Educations Programme 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 and journalism, Mr. Saifuddin developed his expertise on editing and page layout. He has edited a good number of CIRDAP publications. 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 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

The staff-members who left CIRDAP during the year 2008

- Dr. B Sudhakar Rao, India
- Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, the Philippines
- Ms. San San Hla, Myanmar
- Mr. Md. Abdur Rafe, Bangladesh
- Mr. Muhammad Habibullah, Bangladesh
- Mr. Abu Taher, Bangladesh

Abbreviations & Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	FGD	Focus Group Discussion
AHK NCRD&MA	Akhter Hamid Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration	GC	Governing Council
ALRD	Association for Land Reform and Development	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	GIS	Geographic Information System
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	GO	Government Organisation
ASA	Association for Social Advancement	GoB	Government of Bangladesh
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
BAPPEDA	Agency for Planning and Development	ICC	International Conference Centre
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development	IDRC	International Development Research Centre
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	ILC	International Land Coalition
CARD	CIRDAP Approach for Rural Development	INGOs	International Non-Government Organisations
CBD	Community-Based Development	IRD	Integrated Rural Development
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	IT	Information Technology
CCMs	CIRDAP Contact Ministries	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
CIARPS	CIRDAP In-House Annual Review and Planning Seminar	LAN	The Local Area Network
CICC	CIRDAP International Conference Centre	LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
CLIs	Link Institutions	LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	LIs	Link Institutions
CONCS	CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CP	Computer Programmer	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	MfDR	Managing for Development Results
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	MFI	Microfinance Institutions
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DG	Director General	MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
EC	Evaluation Committee	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
EC	Executive Committee	NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation	NAM-CSSTC	Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific		
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation		

NDDSL	New Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Livelihood	RDCD	Rural Development and Co-operative Division
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations	RoK	Republic of Korea
NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development	RPOs	Rural Poor Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	RTC	Regional Training College
PA	Poverty Alleviation	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
PAC	Personnel Advisory Committee	SCOPE	Strengthening Capacities of the Organisations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia
PCs	Personal Computers	SHG s	Self-Help Groups
PDBF	Palli Daridra Bimochon Foundation	SLGDF	Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund
PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation	SOCSEA	Sub-regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
PNPM	National Programme for Community Empowerment	TC	Technical Committee
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy	TIPS	Tools, Insights and Practices
PPD	Pilot Projects Division	ToR	terms of reference
PRA	Participatory Rapid Appraisal	UN	United Nations
PRDP	Participatory Rural Development Project	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PRMU	Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
PWB	Programme Works of Budget	WAN	Wide Area Network
RCF	Regional Cooperation Fund	WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development
RD	Rural Development	WTO	World Trade Organisation
RDA	Rural Development Academy		

REGIONAL IRD NETWORK

Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Country</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Dev. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Dev. Darul Aman Road, Nela Bagh Street Kabul Kabul	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Aman Road, Nela Bagh Street
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development Kotbari, Comilla - 3500	Rural Dev. & Co-operatives Div. Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Dev. & Co-operatives, Dhaka
India	National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar Hyderabad-500030	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 1100 01
Indonesia	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment 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 Tehran
Lao PDR	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Vientiane	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P.O. Box 811 Vientiane
Malaysia	Institute of Rural Advancement Ministry of Rural & Regional Dev. Bandar Baru Bandi, 43000 Kajang Selangor	Ministry of Rural & Regional Development, Level-9, Block D9, Parcel D Federal Govt., Administrative Centre 62606 Putrajaya
Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw
Nepal	Local Development Training Academy, Jawalakhel Lalitpur Lalitpur	Ministry of Local Development Shri Mahal, Pulchowk
Pakistan	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, 2nd Floor, State Life Building, Blue Area, Islamabad
Philippines	Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Department Department of Agrarian Reform 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 Colombo	Ministry of Agricultural Dev. & Agrarian Services Dev. Govijana Mandiraya, Battaramulla
Thailand	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok Bangkok	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Vietnam	Department of Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Dept. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bach Thao Hanoi



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