

CIRDAP

Annual Report
2009



CIRDAP

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for
Asia and the Pacific

CIRDAP

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

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

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

Amelioration of rural poverty in the Asia-Pacific Region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP. The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four areas of concern: (1) agrarian development; (2) institutional/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

2009



CIRDAP

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

Contents

2009 in Review: Director General's Report	03
Policy Body Meeting	09
CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar-2008	13
Research	19
Pilot Projects	37
Training	45
Information and Communication	57
Administration and Finance	61
Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP	71
CIRDAP Staff Profile	75

CIRDAP Annual Report 2009

Published by CIRDAP

© CIRDAP 2010

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

Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road

GPO Box 2883

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Tel : 955 8751, 955 9686, 7169 824-5, 9556131

Fax : 880-2-956 2035

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

Website : www.cirdap.org.sg

Design & Printing: Dot Ad



2009 in Review

Director General's Report

The year 2009 has been a historic year for CIRDAP and made several strides. The Sixteenth Governing Council (GC-16) meeting in Manila in May 2007 felt that there have been sea changes in rural development (RD) and poverty alleviation (PA) policies of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) from the contemporary national and international policy context then that of the establishment of CIRDAP in 1979. Therefore, CIRDAP may require repositioning itself

through new approaches and dimensions of RD and PA to remain contextual and relevant to CMCs as well as to develop new partnerships with the relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels. Accordingly, GC-16 decided to review the RD and PA policies and programmes in CMCs, evaluate CIRDAP from its institutional and strategic perspectives and hold Second Ministerial Meeting to reaffirm the new mandate to CIRDAP. The Government of Japan provided the funding support for all these activities.

As per decision, CIRDAP conducted a policy research study in 2008 to review the RD policies and programmes in all CMCs, which found out, inter-alia, that food security is the growing concern in all CMCs because there have been no major innovations in agriculture in the last two decades. Hence, food production and investments in agriculture must be given a new thrust and priorities. Similarly, the targets of MDGs are unlikely to be met in most of the CMCs, due to, among others, the lack of good governance and malfunctioning of delivery institutions. In most countries, the improvements in GDP per capita have been attained at the cost of increasing disparities in income. More importantly, regional cooperation has been less than adequate for cross-fertilisation of ideas and programmes among CMCs. Policies have been driven by country specific needs and internal politics, and little evidence of learning from each other's experiences. Finally, the effect of climate change will have a profound impact on the rural poor, particularly in low lands and coastal areas.

The GC-16 also constituted an Evaluation Committee (CEC) with representatives from India, Iran, Malaysia, Japan and CIRDAP, to evaluate CIRDAP from its strategic and institutional perspectives. The CEC has completed its work in 2009, which found that CIRDAP is a unique organisation having three regional level forums with policy makers of agriculture/rural development of 14 countries of Asia-Pacific region. The Centre's Secretariat in Dhaka and the CIRDAP link institutions in each country can be further strengthened to be more dynamic to envision future rural development interventions. Since the portfolio of rural development interventions are changing rapidly and substantially, they can put forward critical issues for discussion at the regional forums of the ministers and secretaries, who are the top decision-makers in agriculture and RD & PA in their respective countries, so that a comprehensive course of action could be decided collectively with commitment. The draft Evaluation Report was discussed during the Third Policy Dialogue in Langkawi Malaysia in March 2009, which was finalised based on the comments from CMCs.

Preparation of the Second Ministerial Meeting was made by the Special GC Meeting on 24 June 2008 in New Delhi, India. The theme of the Meeting was decided as 'Working Together for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods'. Similarly, the Special GC also decided to officially invite countries of Asia-Pacific region, which are mentioned in Annex 1 of the CIRDAP Agreement, to join CIRDAP as members, which would be followed up through the diplomatic channels of CMCs before the Ministerial meeting. Similarly, all donor agencies working in RD and PA will be invited to attend the meeting. Accordingly, the GC Chairperson invited over 25 countries of Asia-Pacific



region and over 45 donor agencies working for RD and PA. The Government of Bangladesh organised a briefing session for the Ambassadors and High Commissioners of all countries on 21 July 2009, where the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, requested non-CMCs to consider joining CIRDAP and participating in the Second Ministerial Meeting at the highest level. However, as per the direction of the host country Bangladesh, the Second Ministerial Meeting was rescheduled to January 2010.

Regional Training Programmes: CIRDAP has conducted several regional training programmes in different member countries in collaboration with various sponsoring agencies. The Government of India has been kind enough in sponsoring several thematic regional training programmes to help CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) building capacity of IRD functionaries and exchange and learn from each others' experiences. Similarly, the Government of Pakistan has sponsored two regional programmes, out of which one has been completed and another will be organised in near future. An international workshop on Income Generation for Women was organised in collaboration with NAM CSSTC, Indonesia.

Commonwealth Secretariat - CIRDAP Collaborative Programme: A high level regional workshop on 'Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects' was organised at Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD & MA), Islamabad, Pakistan, which was attended by 46 participants and resource persons from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Iran, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The workshop focused on participatory approaches in planning and management of rural development programme with particular reference to involvement of grassroots level institutions.

Training-cum-Exposure Visit: Several training-cum-exposure visits were organised in Bangladesh, which were sponsored by the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), India; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), India to study microfinance and rural livelihood. Bangladesh is the hub of microfinance and such exposure has given better understanding of the subject and provided opportunity to discuss critical issues with all stakeholders. While expanding its canvas, the Training Division developed networking with other International Organisations. One exposure visit was sponsored by Integrated Protected Area Management Project (IPAC) of US AID to visit to Nepal covering natural resources development that includes land, water and forest.

Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land: In collaboration with IFAD, a research study on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor has been conducted. The aim of the study is to identify issues which determine improved access to land and

other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups in four Asian countries namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. As of September 2009, three reports have been received from the country researchers of Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines. All these reports have been finalised based on the comments/ feedback received from the country workshops, organised during the period September to November 2008 and the concerned experts. CIRDAP also organised a regional consultation in July 2009 to discuss and formulate policy issues for the Second Ministerial Meeting.



Third Regional Policy Dialogue: CIRDAP has been organising regional policy dialogue on topical and pertinent issues, inviting Ministers and Secretaries of CMCs. It has been received very well and outcome has been fruitful for policy interventions. Accordingly, the third Regional Policy Dialogue was organised in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia from 27 to 30 April 2009 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The theme of the dialogue was 'the Success of Malaysia in Rural Transformation'. All CMCs participated, in which 8 CMCs participated at the ministerial level. Seven presentations were made on various facets of RD policies and programmes of Malaysia.

Country Study Series: The CIRDAP Governing Council, in its 16th Meeting in Manila in 2007, decided to commission a series of country studies for reviewing past policies and identifying policy issues and concerns with which CIRDAP can engage itself further through strengthening several actors at national and regional level for information generation, policy development and regional cooperation.

Twelve countries- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, have submitted the reports out of 14 countries. CIRDAP Country Study Series basically review the past policies and programmes and identify present policy level issues on rural development and poverty alleviation in the CIRDAP member countries. An Overview of the 12 studies providing an in-depth analysis of the policies and programmes of the countries, finding out the opportunities for CIRDAP initiatives in CMCs, has also been written.

Rural Development Report - 2009: The Special GC meeting held in India in 2008, decided the theme of the Rural Development Report -2009, as 'Changing Rural Livelihoods in CIRDAP Member Countries: Constraints and Opportunities'. The report was published. It is expected that the findings of the report will provide intellectual support for the policy papers to be presented during the fourth policy dialogue in January 2010.

Regional Workshop on Sustainable Rural Livelihood: The Special GC meeting 2008 also declared 2009 as 'The Year of Sustainable Rural Livelihood'. CIRDAP organised several activities to mark the occasion. On its founding day, 6 July 2009, CIRDAP organised an international seminar

on 'Changing Rural Livelihoods in the CIRDAP Member Countries: Opportunities and Constraints', in Dhaka. Academicians, rural development practitioners, and development professionals took part in the half-day seminar. Two papers on Changing Rural Livelihoods in the South Asia and South-east Asian Region were presented by Dr. S.K. Singh, Director Training of CIRDAP and Dr. Mokbul Morshed Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand respectively. A talk show was also organised in a satellite TV channel - ATN Bangla to mark the day.

Workshop on Reduction of Post-Harvest Agricultural Crops Losses: Pilot Projects Division (PPD), CIRDAP organised a workshop entitled 'Reduction of Post-Harvest Agricultural Crops Losses', on 23 November 2009 at CIRDAP Headquarter. This workshop was organised with a hope to continue further national and regional collaboration on post harvest crop management, involving relevant institutions, policy makers and other stakeholders. In the midst of frequent natural calamities, rising population as well as the declining trend in agricultural investment, the food security in the Asia-Pacific countries has been under threat. Five Papers presented in the workshop were: a) General Profile of Post Harvest agricultural Losses in Islamic Republic of Iran; b) Feasibility of Agro-processing Industries in Bangladesh and Export Potential of Agro-processed Products; c) Agro-Based Industry in Bangladesh Reduction of Post-harvest losses in Rice; d) Post harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables for Reducing the Losses; and e) Reduction of Post-harvest Losses in Rice.

PPD has further plan on working more on post-harvest issues like seed technology and improving storage methods and technologies aiming to contribute to food security through reducing the post-harvest losses as the demand of food is increasing day by day.

Health Care Programme for Rural Poor School Children in Bangladesh: With the scenario of lack of hygiene facilities in rural areas, PPD took some curative and preventive measures by the two programmes namely, a) Doctors Check up for selective rural primary school children and b) Equip selected rural school children with 'Hygiene Care Pack'. These programme were like awareness on hygiene practices for knowledge generation and also provide general health services by a group of qualified doctors to the most vulnerable rural primary school children

This was a collaborative programme among CIRDAP, Shefa Khana, and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and funded by the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangladesh. A team of doctors examined 700 rural primary school children. They found certain common diseases like diarrhoea, stomach ache, skin disease, fever, cold, cough and dental problems. This programme was expected to keep the rural children healthy and help them to attend the school regularly.

Similarly, preventive measures like distributing a total of one thousand 'Hygiene Care Pack' to the two primary schools in the Kishoreganj District, Bangladesh was also taken in the month of December 2009. The 'Hygiene Care Pack' contained basic items like Soap, Shampoo, Comb, Nail Cutter, Paste, Tooth Brush and small Towel etc. along with pictorial 'Brochure' as user manual (pictorial) in Bangla. In the programme, 50 books namely 'Where There Is No Doctor' translated in Bangla were also distributed to the rural communities as part of knowledge generation on hygiene care.

Information and Dissemination: CIRDAP is mandated to act as an information clearing house for its member countries. As such, Information and Communication Division (ICD) regularly disseminates relevant information on the research, action research and training activities of CIRDAP via print, audio-visual and electronic media. Also, regional and cross-country data generated through regular and periodic publications are being disseminated through other information services like library and online services.

In the recent times, information technology (IT) has had a massive upsurge and has emerged as one of the most effective tools for intervention in rural development. CIRDAP recognises this and has been trying to improve its IT services by making stronger the IT base of the headquarters with the support of India, in order to render better and effective networking with member countries. Several notable breakthrough and initiatives also were achieved in public communications. Its

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



TC-25 Meeting in Tehran

Planning and Resource Mobilisation: Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit (PRMU) was created in 1996 under the office of the Deputy Director General (DDG) with an objective to coordinate policy body meetings, programme monitoring and resources mobilisation. The PRMU, under the guidance of Director General, has been involved in organising and coordinating all CIRDAP policy body meetings (TC/EC/GC/RPD/SMM). Comments, suggestions, recommendations and decisions of the meetings are also followed up by the unit timely and efficiently.

Activities of Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia: The Sub-Regional Office was established in 1997 to link CIRDAP with East Asian and Pacific countries and generate resources and knowledge of rural development and poverty alleviation from successful experiences of Southeast Asian countries. It has played a key role in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) and implementing various regional programmes and projects. In 2009 SOCSEA has implemented one regional programme and four in-country programmes.

Construction of an International Conference Centre (ICC): As per the decision of GC-16 in Manila in 2007, the Government of Bangladesh has provided nearly US\$2.11 Million to construct the International Conference Centre in CIRDAP Campus. The building is designed and constructed by Public Works Department, which is expected to be completed before the Second Ministerial Meeting in January 2010.

Forward Looking Strategy for CIRDAP

As we all know that CIRDAP was established in 1979 with the consideration that the magnitude and nature of rural development policy packages, which are implemented under several ministries and departments for a longer time period, need professional services such as development of operational manuals, capacity building of the functionaries, monitoring the implementation process and reviewing and feed backing the achievements to the policy makers. Similarly, at the regional level, learning from the experiences of other countries and regional cooperation to address

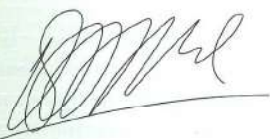
the mistakes/drawbacks was thought to help achieve better results. This was the concept of CIRDAP in which an effective networking between national level rural development institutions was designed.

In spite of the sea changes in the policy context at national, regional and international level, it appears that IRD approach is still relevant for rural development policies and reducing rural poverty, because the conventional theory that rapid economic growth as a conduit of reducing rural poverty does not seem to have worked. For example, the recent FAO report shows that the level of poverty in Asia-Pacific region has increased in 2007 despite the consistent economic growth in most countries. Poverty is concentrated in rural areas, particularly in the South Asian region. Several international reports suggest that the development efforts of the recent past have failed to address a number of important issues. The food insecurity is increasing, which is likely to be aggravated due to the effect of climate change. More labour force is going to be unemployed due to, among others, the declining job creation in the rural areas. The inequality of the distribution of resources, opportunities and prosperity is increasing. Similarly, it is also evident that the donors' efforts are not generating desired development results. Hence, the Paris Declaration 2005 has asked for ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability for development resources between donors and receiving ends.

Therefore, the government must take a decisive action to implement rural development policies and programmes for better results. Several rural issues such as capacity building of local governments, access and management of natural resources, generation of productive employment, access of the poor to public services etc. need more research. In this endeavour the donors should join hands with the government, based on the recommendations of Paris Declaration.

In this background, the Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in the Asia-Pacific region is being organised with the call for 'Working Together for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods'. We hope that the Second Ministerial Meeting will be a watershed moment for the history of CIRDAP.

By now CIRDAP has made its presence felt in the Asia-Pacific Region. Several good works of CIRDAP have been well appreciated by CMCs. The Government of Bangladesh has provided a generous support to develop its infrastructure. The Government of India has agreed to establish an ICT Centre in the CIRDAP International Conference Centre. Time has come to take advantage of these institutional capitals. The CIRDAP Evaluation Report has given enough idea how to go forward. I sincerely hope that CMCs would take these ideas positively and make decisive actions in the Second Ministerial Meeting.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal
Director General

Policy Body Meeting

Technical Committee Meeting in Iran

The Twenty-Fifth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-25) was held at Tehran, Iran from 26 to 29 July 2009.

TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) attended the meeting. Professor Dr. Y. Kaida, IRD expert (Japan) and Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Member, CIRDAP Evaluation Committee also attended the meeting. Diplomats from Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar based in Tehran attended the inaugural session.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Second Building of Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Thaleghani Street Tehran, Iran, on 26 July 2009. His Excellency Dr. Jafar Khaleghani, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran, inaugurated the meeting.

While welcoming the delegates of the TC-25, Dr. Khalghani mentioned that he had a meeting with a delegation of CIRDAP and he became convinced about the importance of CIRDAP's mandate and its critical role in the Asia-Pacific region for the upliftment of the lives of rural masses.

He also spoke about the current development challenges faced by Iran in the areas of agriculture and rural development. He further said that Iran also has many success stories and innovative practices in rural development and agriculture to share with the brethren in CMCs. This distinct knowledge that has to be gathered from West Asia may require the establishment of a CIRDAP sub-regional centre. He also mentioned that Iran has agreed to explore the procedure and process for the establishment of the said Centre in Iran.

Twenty Fifth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC- 25) **26-29 July 2009, TEHRAN- I.R. IRAN**



H.E. Dr. Khalghani also said that development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in CIRDAP countries is one of the high potential areas for rural development. East and Southeast Asian countries are well ahead of the South and West Asian countries in this field. CMCs can share and learn from one another achievements and experiences. He suggested that CIRDAP may organise a training course on this topic. He pledged the support of the Government of Iran to this event.



Meeting in progress

Mr Babu Ram Shrestha, Executive Director LDTA and Chairperson of CIRDAP Technical Committee TC-24 expressed his thanks on behalf of CIRDAP Technical Committee and on his behalf to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture for hosting the meeting. He said that during the TC deliberations CLIs could make their views on the important agenda of CIRDAP evaluation report which will be presented and discussed under agenda items. He also said that all major policy issues brought up here could be taken up in the donors and Second Ministerial Meeting. He requested other members of TC to maintain their support to the centre that will always inspire the promotion of existing friendly relations among CMCs.

While welcoming the delegates of the meeting Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP introduced CIRDAP and outlined the recent activities of CIRDAP. He said that there has been a sea change in rural development policies and programme at national and international level since its inception. Keeping these developments in mind, the Sixteenth Governing Council meeting in Manila in 2007 decided to hold the Second Ministerial Meeting to deliberate on these issues and renew the mandate to CIRDAP.

He requested the Technical Committee to give policy recommendations for the next EC and GC. This meeting is even more important to give final shape on several important policy issues on the future course of action of CIRDAP, as this is the only opportunity to think collectively on the important agenda items to be placed in the Second Ministerial Meeting in January 2010.

Below are important suggestions made at the TC-25 Meeting:

- If the projects are funded, it is appropriate to create steering committees consisting of Heads of CLIs for (a) facilitating reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghanistan; (b) Capacity building for national and local level good governance in Pakistan.
- All CMCs may explore possibilities to conduct training programmes based on their strength on cost sharing basis.

- CIRDAP should explore possibilities for establishing a GIS section at the ICT Centre of CIRDAP international Conference Centre.
- CIRDAP, in collaboration with AIRD, should design a broad action plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development.
- Pakistan suggested that CIRDAP should design a special Training of Trainers in HRD for CLIs faculties.
- CIRDAP Training programme requires to be followed up with an impact assessment to ascertain impact of the training and to improve future training programmes.
- A directory of resource persons with specialisation available in the CMCs should be prepared.
- CIRDAP website should be made more interactive.
- Agricultural products marketing and Agri-business may be one of the priority areas for training and research.
- CIRDAP output should be made available on public domain.
- Rural Development (RD) and Poverty Alleviation (PA) policies are broad and multi-disciplinary policies. Therefore they need professional services such as developing operational guidelines, training the functionaries, monitoring progress and feedback to the policy makers for their good implementation. Therefore, strengthening national level rural development institutions, which are the CLIs of CIRDAP, should get the priority attention and adequate resources from the government.
- The government may also request donors to join hands with the government to strengthen CLIs at the national level and CIRDAP at the regional level in order to provide better services to RD and PA policies.
- Some countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, among others, are undertaking a massive policy restructuring. They require special attention and support from other CMCs.
- CMCs should actively support by joining hand with donors to strengthen CLIs.
- CIRDAP should device differential strategies to work with different CMCs.
- Pakistan suggested that CIRDAP should be developed as more proactive, vibrant organization with elaborate networking with CLIs.
- India suggested that there should be an action plan for implementation of the recommendations. For generating resources donor should be convinced. At the same time possibility for Corpus Fund/Endowment Fund should also be explored.
- CIRDAP should develop an operation strategy to implement CEC recommendations.
- CLI has been changed in some countries such as Iran, Philippines and Vietnam. Delegates are suggested to inform CIRDAP officially by the appropriate authority.
- There is a need for capacity building of CLIs and for that different strategies may be designed on the basis of specific needs of each CMC.
- It was suggested that all CLIs join hands with CIRDAP; they can help each other bilaterally and jointly. They may exchange their available training modules, materials to each other. Further, it was reemphasized to have a Training for Trainers programme for faculties of CLIs.
- Action Research project proposal should be participatory approach oriented.
- CIRDAP should prepare an inventory of information needs of CLIs.
- CIRDAP should invite CLIs to join hands with CIRDAP in preparing and presenting policy paper on access to land by the poor.

CIRDAP Country Study Series

*Assessing rural development initiatives
Exploring future opportunities*



**CENTRE ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

CIRDAP Country Study Series

*Assessing rural development initiatives
Exploring future opportunities*

*CIRDAP Study Series 204-16
(13 Publications), December 2009
© CIRDAP. Price: US\$5 for CMCs,
US\$7 for Others.*

The CIRDAP Governing Council, in its 16th Meeting in Manila in 2007, decided to commission a series of country studies for reviewing past policies and identifying policy issues and concerns with which CIRDAP can engage itself further through strengthening several actors at national and regional level for information generation, policy development and regional cooperation.

Twelve countries- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, have submitted the reports out of 14 countries. CIRDAP Country Study Series basically

review the past policies and programmes and identify present policy level issues on rural development and poverty alleviation in the CIRDAP member countries. An Overview of the 12 studies providing an in-depth analysis of the policies and programmes of the countries, finding out the opportunities for CIRDAP initiatives in CMCs, has also been written.

The country reports vary substantially in nature. Southeast Asian countries, especially Thailand and Vietnam, adopted market based reform policies much earlier than the South Asian countries. The focus in the Southeast Asian countries was on the development of infrastructure, encouragement to foreign capital investment in manufacturing, and providing employment in organised enterprises as well as services catering to the market economy, tourism, restaurants and the like. The focus of development in the first four decades after independence in South Asia was quite different. It focused on the preservation of the rural economy, and attempted to increase employment opportunities in rural areas through public expenditure programmes, and essentially tried to maintain the rural character of these economies. The approach to poverty alleviation has thus been very different in the two regions. While South Asia focused on gains in agriculture and rural employment, Southeast Asia turned to commercialisation of agriculture and more market-oriented growth.

CIRDAP has published all the findings in a separate volume for each country. In total 13 publications have been brought out.

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

CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar - 2008

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session of CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) - 2008 was held on 15 April 2009 at CIRDAP auditorium.

The session was chaired by Mr. Babu Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, LDTA and TC-24 Chairperson. Mr. Khairul Kabir, Director General, BARD attended the session as Special Guest. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and Dr. Majibar Rahman, Special Officer, PRMU, CIRDAP also delivered their speeches.

Dr. Majibar Rahman, in his welcome speech, gave a brief account of CIARPS-2008. He said, 'Today CIRDAP will review all activities of all divisions and unit and formulate work plan for 2009. CIARPS is the source of new ideas, information and imagination for the policy body meetings (TC, EC & GC). So CIARPS is very very important for our policy bodies.'

He welcomed DG as new DG. '2008 is a milestone- Government of Japan renewed its support with Second Ministerial Meeting (SMM); we got support from Bangladesh Government for constructing International Conference Centre, and Indian Government is likely to support establishing ITC. IFAD also extended financial and technical support for implementing a project', he said.

In his speech, Mr. Khairul Kabir expressed gratefulness to DG CIRDAP for this opportunity, and said that BARD had been implementing many successful projects as Link Institution, for example, Comprehensive Model Village project. He acknowledged that BARD got training support and ICD support from CIRDAP.

He stressed strong role of CIRDAP in poverty alleviation efforts in CIRDAP member countries including Bangladesh. Despite remarkable success, population remained high in Bangladesh and 40 per cent of the population has still been under poverty.



TC-24 Chairperson speaking at CIARPS

He suggested CIRDAP to look into the matters of human development issues and environmental changes issues in the CMCs. Because of all the issues, the poor are becoming the worst sufferers.

He also gave emphasis on finding out alternative rural livelihoods. In this regard, he sought strong coordination by CIRDAP. BARD is ready to share all the ideas and information with other CIRDAP countries, he maintained.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Babu Ram Shrestha expressed his gratitude towards CIRDAP for being invited. He welcomed DG CIRDAP as new DG. He said, 'I think this meeting is very important. LDTA can do a lot of things. For this capacity building is very important. We can learn from Bangladesh.'

The Chief Guest hoped CIRDAP would help rebuild Nepal. Nepal needs social-mobilisers for its inclusive development, he said.

CIRDAP has passed 30 years. So it is a time for any organisation to revise development policy, goal, mission, vision etc., he continued.

In the concluding address, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal thanked all concerned to organise CIARPS '08. This attempt will help build institution within institution, he opined.

'In '79 there was no competition. Now the world is very competitive. CIRDAP profile remains low. Let us revive CIRDAP, highlight CIRDAP; CIRDAP needs more research, should do more experiment. How CIRDAP can help Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka? CIRDAP is to explore in collaboration with the CMCs.'

DG said CIRDAP should help the CLIs in capacity building. Strengthening Link Institutions is a necessity, he maintained. Here CIRDAP can play a role. Governments are spending billions in RD. Governments can utilise CIRDAP. Governments can show interest in it. We need CLIs help in this regard.

Evaluation Committee Report has come with recommendations. Evaluation Report should be discussed, he said. DG also expressed his hope that the two days of CIARPS would be very productive days.

Business Session

The business session of CIARPS-2008 has been chaired and moderated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP and participated by all CIRDAP staff-members.

The two-day seminar reviewed and analysed the follow-up actions on suggestions and recommendations of CIARPS-2007, progress of work of the Centre during 2008 and work plan for 2009, and follow-up actions on the decision of TC-24 and Special GC.

The Business Session covered the following agenda-items:

- Highlights of CIRDAP activities during 2008
- Follow-up actions on the recommendations and suggestions of the last CIARPS-2007
- Follow-up actions on the decisions of the previous policy body meetings of CIRDAP
- Division/unit wise reviewing of the progress of CIRDAP activities for the year 2008
- Formulation of work plan for 2009
- Reviewing the CIRDAP Evaluation Report-2009
- Discussion on Second Ministerial Meeting
- Identifying suitable issues/agendas for discussion in the next TC Meeting

Dr. Majibar Rahman, Coordinator, CIARPS, presented highlights of CIRDAP activities in 2008 and follow-up actions on the suggestions and recommendations of CIARPS-2007 and follow-up actions on the suggestions and recommendations of TC-24 Meeting and Special GC Meeting.

Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Assistant Programme Officer, Research; Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director PPD and Mr. David Hilton, Assistant Programme Officer, PPD; Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director, Information and Communication Division; Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Head of Administration and Finance and Mr. Shahadat Hossain, Finance Officer; and Mr. Md. Ischak, Assistant to the Head of SOCSEA made presentation on the progress of activities of their respective divisions.

DG CIRDAP made a presentation on the Evaluation Report-2009, and it was discussed how to highlight the Evaluation Report. Dr. Majibar Rahman initiated discussions on the Second Ministerial Meeting with a view to making it successful.

Some Suggestions/Recommendations made at the CIARPS

- A committee for organising SMM has to be formed in RDCD.
- Inter-ministerial committee has to be formed for organising the SMM.
- Media support is emphasised on successful holding of 2nd Ministerial Meeting.
- CLIs and CCMs may be suggested to send their publications and training modules to CIRDAP. So CIRDAP can be a store house and disseminate those publications.
- If the valuable training materials are in local language, CIRDAP may translate it.
- Summary of the training materials and modules collected from CLIs can be published on website.
- CIRDAP will write to the CLIs to send training materials, modules to CIRDAP.
- Each division is suggested to prepare/update a vision paper. SOCSEA must have a vision paper. Its programmes, suggestions should go to the policy-makers of ASEAN countries.
- Formulating proposal on how the CLIs can be strengthened.
- Each CLI, on the basis of the training required, can design Master module in association with CIRDAP.
- Country-specific training programmes are to be designed, based on their need.
- CIRDAP can help LDTA to get international back up. With Nepalese Government, CIRDAP can work together.
- CLIs should be suggested to come up with proposals and their requirements.
- Workshop on Access to land should be organised before August. SOCSEA can be requested to give specific programme schedule.
- Member countries can be asked to provide research data on CIRDAP Website.
- Research Director, Res. Programme Officer, should be appointed immediately.
- New research is needed to address the problems in the CMCs.
- Brainstorming session is suggested on the priority areas of the member countries. CMCs can be asked to give information about whatever they are doing in their countries.
- Policy papers, project proposals by CIRDAP and CMCs should be brief, relevant, simple and crispy.
- Some projects are not suitable to some countries. A good selection process must be there.
- Action research is a social laboratory. More intervention is needed.

- CIRDAP can take up 2/3 unions and develop and strengthen the local institutions. CIRDAP can take up one/two areas in the countries.
- People are not aware of CIRDAP. With CIRDAP action research, the name of CIRDAP can be spread.
- Training programmes are very impressive. All training reports must be published. Money should be allocated for publishing.
- Training can be country-specific and need-based of the CMCs.
- To attend the training programme, CLIs, along with the CCMs, will be written to nominate the person. As the copy is not sent to the CLIs, the CCMs take this opportunity.
- Training will be targeted to strengthen the CLI capability.
- Training Division can think of distance education with CLIs. One year rural development course, like NIRD, can be introduced. Faculty exchange can be considered.
- Logo on SMM should reflect varieties of activities, varieties of people and varieties of region.
- Media releases should be made more reader friendly.
- Marketing strategy of CIRDAP publications can be designed.
- Mailing list should be regularly updated. Operational mechanism can be designed.
- Video presentation can be improved.
- CDD can go for wider circulation. Lectures of the important persons can be published.
- Training materials from the CLIs can be stored in the libraries and on CIRDAP website.
- Bibliography and reference in the library can be strengthened.
- CIRDAP publications can be sold to the exposure visitors.
- Library can be shifted to ICC. A selling centre can be set up over there.
- E-mails utility can be modernised. E-mail accounts can be used for all types of notification and messages.
- PRMU should be informed about the projects in the Division.
- Regional Cooperation Fund should be operational so that the countries do not question.
- Some mechanism for monitoring projects should be devised.
- Salary package for the CIRDAP staff is very poor. It may be increased as it has been mentioned in the Evaluation Report.
- A proposal on delegation of power can be submitted. CEO should have power to take decisions, re-appropriation. DG cannot go to GC every time.
- Management style does not reflect the international standard.
- Staff development is essential.
- To manage ICC, its services can be outsourced.
- Supply system of stationary goods should be improved.
- To get ASEAN collaboration, all proposals for CIRDAP-ASEAN collaboration should be channelled through the member countries.
- SOCSEA, through Government of Indonesia, should convince the ASEAN countries for better collaboration between ASEAN and CIRDAP.
- Cambodia membership has to be finalised before November.

Concluding Session

Remarks by SOCSEA

SOCSEA Head thanked all. 'We learnt many things, shared many things', Dr. Almuktebar commented. He assured all-out cooperation from the side of SOCSEA.

Remarks by TC-24 Chairperson

TC-24 Chairperson expressed happiness and thanked all. What we did in two days- a very impressive thing. CIRDAP is doing a very very good job. It contributed to the Asia-Pacific rural development,' he said. Because of very hard work, CIRDAP is emerging and expanding again.

He sought help, cooperation from CIRDAP for restructuring LDTA. 'There is a very good infrastructure of LDTA. It has long experience. Government is providing grant to LDTA.'

The chairperson invited CIRDAP to attend the donors' meeting to be organised by LDTA. 'CIRDAP participation will be appreciated.' He also assured CIRDAP to be linked with CIRDAP website very soon.

Remarks by DG CIRDAP

Director General of CIRDAP thanked TC-24 Chairperson and SOCSEA persons for attending the meeting.

He said that CIRDAP was focusing on capacity building of Link Institutions. Unless the local government is unaware of its capability, it won't progress, he said. 'For CIRDAP it is a new area. It is not only institutional development; it is also how to convince the policymakers for professional services.'

DG gave emphasis on making agenda relevant. Now vision of CIRDAP should be developed in the Second Ministerial Meeting. All concerned should make CIRDAP excellent.

He said that CIRDAP could do country-specific rural development programmes. CIRDAP has new ideas; these ideas should be implemented in the member countries; this way CIRDAP capacity will be enhanced, he commented.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2009

**Changing Rural Livelihoods:
Constraints and Opportunities**



**Centre on Integrated Rural Development for
Asia and the Pacific**

Rural Development Report 2009

***Changing Rural Livelihoods:
Constraints and Opportunities***

Study Series No. 217, December
2009. © CIRDAP. ISBN: 984-8104-
67-5. Price: US\$10 for CMCs, US\$15
for Others.

The Rural Development Report 2009 presents a review of some of the basic components on the basis of available information and highlights some elements which are particularly significant. It should not be taken as a comprehensive survey and assessment of the changing livelihoods in the CMCs.

The Report has been designed to be useful to the policymakers and rural development practitioners as well as researchers and professionals interested in rural development in the region.

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

Visit CIRDAP Website at

www.cirdap.org.sg

Research

- Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land
- Regional Consultation on Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue
- An Assessment of RD Initiatives in CMCs: Future Opportunities
- Changing Rural Livelihoods
- Third Regional Policy Dialogue in Malaysia
- Rural Development Report 2009

Focused Areas

- Rural transformation
- Knowledge generation
- Policy dialogue
- Access to land
- Natural resources
- Tenurial security
- Land distribution
- Political support to land issues
- Forest and water issues
- Food security



Research Division

The Sixteenth Governing Council (GC-16) meeting in Manila, in May 2007, felt that there have been sea changes from the contemporary national and international policy context, since it was established in 1979. Therefore CIRDAP may require repositioning itself through new approaches and dimensions of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation (RD & PA) to remain contextual and relevant to the CMCs as well as develop new partnerships with the relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels. CIRDAP Research Division was engaged during the year focusing on analysing key socioeconomic issues in the rural areas to identify the dynamic elements of rural transformation and suggest policies for accelerating rural development in the member countries through reviewing the RD policies and programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries in line with the suggestions made by the policy bodies. It was also provided assistance to evaluate CIRDAP from its institutional and strategic perspectives to provide policy inputs for the Second Ministerial Meeting convened in January 2010. A brief review of the activities undertaken during the period is given below:

Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land

The project 'Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in four Asian Countries' was initiated in October 2007 with the aim to look at issues which determine improved access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups in four Asian countries namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines.

Major activities envisaged are as follows: 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 Governing Council to share experiences; and
- Presentation of the main recommendations at the regional policy dialogue in 2009 GC.

Activities completed so far:

- Planning workshop conducted during 28-30 January 2008
- Project Monitoring Visits in Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines
- Three National Workshops organised
- The country reports by CIRDAP reviewed twice
- Regional consultation organised

Three countries complete research work: According to the planned schedule, the project was supposed to be completed by October 2009. Of the four countries chosen for the research, work has been completed by Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines. The country assessments have

been performed, the reports have been generated and a national dialogue was held in each of the three countries. A regional consultation was held to finalise the country studies. As per the objectives, the main recommendations of the study were circulated to all CMCs.

The original researcher of Indonesia has not submitted the report in due time. However, it has been notified by SOCSEA to CIRDAP that a new researcher in Indonesia has taken over the responsibility of completing the assessment report.

Regional Consultation on Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) conducted a policy study on 'Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in four Asian Countries', namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines in 2007-08. This policy study was taken up as a follow-up of the Declaration of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) at Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2006 which emphasised that 'wider, secure and sustainable access to land, water and other natural resources related to rural people's livelihoods, especially, inter alia, women, indigenous, marginalised and vulnerable groups, are essential to hunger and poverty eradication, which contribute to sustainable development and should be inherent part of national policies' (Paragraph 6). The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) prepared a technical cooperation programme (TCP) for some countries in Asia and the Pacific region to support the implementation of the follow-up actions of ICARRD. The study therefore is focusing on understanding the dynamics of access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups. It was also designed to develop a policy paper to be presented at the regional policy dialogue to be held during the Second Ministerial Meeting at Dhaka in January 2010.

As per requirements of this policy study, a high level regional consultation was organised at CIRDAP, Dhaka during 15-16 July 2009 to discuss the findings of the study and formulate policy issues critical to the rural poor access to land and other natural resources in the region. In all, 35 experts from different Asian countries participated in the Regional Consultation.



The participants listening at Regional Consultation

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Political support for access to land

The participants observed that access to land and other natural resources is critically important for household food security, poverty reduction and social stability. This is especially so because in most Asian countries, there is high incidence of landlessness and marginalisation of land-holdings along with slow pace of growth of employment outside agriculture. Moreover, the countries in this region have different political regimes and different policies towards land. More so, a firm political will and commitment is required towards pro-poor initiative. It is thus suggested that the respective governments of these countries may consider seriously:

- to undertake special and innovative land reform measures to improve the rural poor access to land and other natural resources in order to improve their socioeconomic status and increased participation in the local level decision-making process.
- To undertake an appropriate policy intervention to address the land issues in favour of the rural poor regardless of prevailing political compulsions.

2. Definition of land, water and forest

Land is an important factor in the formation of social and cultural identity and in the organisation of religious life. It is also an enormous political resource, defining power relations between and among individuals, families and communities. Moreover, survival of family in the rural areas depends on various kinds of land such as farm land, forest land, pasture land, waste land etc. which are interrelated and considered as an important source of livelihoods from an integrated use of resources by the poor rural people. Here, apart from agricultural land, forest land, pasture and water bodies are also taken into account. These are usually the common properties. Accordingly, access to land in this study refers to the ability to use land and other natural resources, to control the resources and to transfer the rights to the land and take advantage of other opportunities.

3. Land and tenurial security

Land can be obtained based on ownership or through other tenurial arrangements or social arrangements. Therefore, apart from ownership, tenurial conditions are also important. Here tenurial conditions are meant the arrangements to use the land and other resources and appropriate benefits even though the resource under consideration is not owned by the users. Land tenure refers to the rules, authorities, institutions, rights and norms that govern access to and control over land and related resources. It defines the rules and rights that govern the appropriation, cultivation and use of natural resources in a given space or piece of land. Leasing is one of the means through which many landless and semi-landless poor either access land for cultivation or improve their size of holding for viability. However, it appeared that in many countries, tenancy or leasing out of agricultural land is either prohibited or restricted though in reality informal and insecure tenancies continue. Such legal restrictions tend to reduce the size of land available for leasing.

Therefore, it is suggested that the respective governments may evolve mechanisms:

- to withdraw legal restrictions on land leasing for cultivation by the landless and semi-landless poor.
- to legalise such tenancies, so that more land would be available in the land lease market which can be accessed by the landless and semi-landless poor for cultivation. This will also help improve the much desired occupational mobility of the large farmers who can fearlessly lease out land and take up some non-farm or off-farm enterprises for upward mobility. However, in order to prevent reverse tenancy and alienation of the poor from land, the law may provide

that only landless and marginal farmers can lease in land with appropriate tenurial security. This is important because in several places, shift from share cropping to fixed cash leasing tends to alienate landless and marginal farmers from land lease market.

4. Redistribution of ceiling surplus land/government land/char land

In most countries of Asia, there are ceiling laws which prohibit ownership/occupancy of land beyond legally stipulated limits. This is intended to acquire ceiling surplus land for redistribution among the landless and semi-landless rural poor. However, in many cases, there are no realistic estimates of available ceiling surplus land for redistribution (e.g. in Bangladesh, it was shown that out of 3.3 million acres of government land only 0.8 million acres are agricultural land that are available for redistribution).

It is, therefore, suggested to the respective governments:

- to take initiative for realistic estimates of the available land i.e. ceiling surplus land, government land, char land (emerging lands of Bangladesh), water bodies, coastal zones, forest land etc and bridge all implementation gaps.
- It is also suggested to take appropriate measures for their improvement and redistribution among the landless and semi-landless rural poor and to ensure its possession including their rights to common property resources.

5. Gender dimension of access to land/land rights of women

Although, women play a central role in ensuring family food security, they have low access to land due to social norms, intra family arrangements, and inheritance laws. This has made women more vulnerable as demonstrated in all case studies. For example, in Bangladesh, only 2.5 per cent of farm holdings were under female-headed holdings in 2005 which was 3.48 per cent in 1996. Women's ownership of larger holdings of land is extremely low. Whatever women have own, they own mainly the small holdings as in the case of Nepal, 10 per cent of the total holdings are owned by women, and their holding size is about the half of the male. Moreover, access of women to land through ownership differs from region to region and from one social group to another. Even though recent policies in some countries are in favour of gender equity in terms of ownership and access to land; their implementation is not up to the expected level. As reported in the Philippines, agricultural operators (farmers) are predominantly male (89%). But engagement of women in farming (about 60%) is high in all the countries. Agriculture is now feminised because of globalisation which has encouraged young male to go out of the village and out of the country. Despite farming load being dumped on women, they do not have adequate access to land. This poses a problem in accessing credit and other support services by women farmers who do not have land titles in their names. Therefore, it is necessary to provide land rights to all such women farmers. Thus, respective governments:

may ensure that all women farmers are provided effective land rights through amendment of land laws. All lands are registered either jointly in the name of husband and wife or solely in the name of wife/single women, as and where applicable.

6. Protecting the land and forests rights of various Indigenous groups

The information on indigenous populations and their access to land in all the countries is quite dated and inadequate. This is so because of unclear definition of indigenous populations and availability of data disaggregated by indigenous populations. Similarly, data and information are not available regarding access to land and natural resources of indigenous population. There is diversity among the indigenous groups in their access to land and resources. Though many governments have made various laws to protect the land and forest rights of indigenous groups of people. However, the operationalisation of existing laws is not satisfactory and as a consequence, there is growing alienation of such groups from land and forests, resulting in ethnic conflicts in some cases. Respective governments, therefore:

- may have to pay special attention to plug the loopholes in existing laws and administration and ensure that local indigenous people do not get alienated from their land and other natural resources. Clearly defined property rights are important especially where traditional rights of indigenous people clash with mineral or logging rights given to outsiders without any legal clarity.

7. Food security and access to land and other inputs

Food security for the population of the four countries is subject to national policies on agriculture, import and export. The countries have also contributed to and been affected by the global forces such as escalating food prices which led to events such as Global Food Price Crisis 2008. This recent incident can be considered as a landmark reflecting the consequence of complex and interrelated internal and external factors. Some of these contributing causes include national policies and budget which do not adequately support agriculture as there persist insufficient rural credit policies and the lack of R&D and improvement of extension services; the increased food demand from both the growing population and the increased number of middle-class people (due to the general increase in economic growth) which prompted the increased consumption of meat (from heavily grain-fed livestock); the escalating and fluctuating oil prices which affect the cost of agricultural input, such as fertilisers and energy intensive activities as well as transport and logistics cost. On top of these is also the issue of climate change which is believed to be the cause of the unpredictable climate such as the intensity and frequency of floods, droughts and storms as well as erratic rainfall and increased temperature which has direct bearing on crop production. As reported by FAO (2008) Asia and the Pacific region has the largest proportion of undernourished people and the rising prices of all commodities, particularly essential items like oil and rice will further induce increment in the undernourished population. Therefore, urgent measures need to be taken:

- to establish food security reserves in each country, particularly of essential commodities and ensure accessibility by the rural poor.
- In view of the food scarcity in some countries in this region, it is suggested that the countries in this region may evolve an effective regional goodwill gesture to help each other, particularly the food surplus countries may provide grains to food deficit countries. Moreover, countries may consider supplying agricultural inputs to the needy countries including extension services, particularly to countries which are lagging behind.
- The existing regional forums (such as CIRDAP, SARRC, ASEAN) may be utilised to exchange countries view points and enormity of problems and gaps so that the advantageous countries may extend helping hands to meet the requirements of others.

8. Impact of globalisation, market and climate change

The countries studied are not exception to be affected by the climate change. Bangladesh, Philippines and Indonesia belong to coastal areas and Nepal has high mountains. Coastal areas and high mountains are the places which receive most adverse impact of climate change. In Bangladesh, availability of land for cultivation has been reduced because of sea rise and greater salination of the land. In Nepal, climate change is causing retreat of glaciers and total change in the hydrological cycle. This change in the hydrological cycle is expected to bring changes in other countries like India and Bangladesh. Deglaciation has resulted in formation of glacial lakes or in their expansion leading to GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood). GLOF has many adverse consequences on land, infrastructure and people's lives. It destroys the lives and land, especially those located in the river valleys, because of the flash floods. Moreover, there will also be decline in wetlands, which again disturbs the hydrological cycle. Climate change will have more adverse impact on the poor and marginalised population and will make them more vulnerable. Since they locate in vulnerable areas, and the disasters events triggered by climate change will affect them first. Ultimately conflicts related to access to water and land will be intensified.

The commercial pressure on land is another phenomenon which could increase in Asia. The foreign investment on land and farming for commercial purposes is expected to reduce land for the poor and marginalised for their livelihood. Some countries have already experienced pressures in terms of foreign companies buying land for resort and plantation of medicinal crops, commercial ventures (i.e. Nepal, Bangladesh). Therefore, necessary steps be taken by all the respective governments:

- to prepare not only contingency plans, but also alternative albeit sustainable livelihood opportunities for them through education, skill formation etc.
- Technology and know-how is not adequately available in the developing countries of the region in order to assess the enormity of pressure due to climate change. Therefore, it calls for developed countries who are very much engaged in this critical issue to help these countries for preparing a strategic plan to meet this challenge and mitigate adverse impact of climate change and join hands as a partner in this endeavour.

9. Capacity building of local administration and beneficiaries

Land administration and management system is a complicated one in all the countries studied. This is mainly because of complicated, time taking legal procedures, inadequate financial support and non-availability of land record. Land records and land information system is very traditional and inadequate, which makes it difficult to identify the land-owners and their land ownership. It also increases chances for corrupt practices. For example, in Nepal, there are more than 67 laws and regulations related to land, and they are also contradictory in nature. Access to justice in case of land disputes is extremely difficult, and poor people would give up instead of fighting in the courts. In some cases, it was observed that the laws, policies and issuances are being implemented by a multitude of government agencies. Many of the substantive and procedural laws were written without consideration of consequential amendments that their introduction will have on existing legislation. This has resulted in an inefficient land administration and management system characterised by difficult and complicated procedures resulting in delays in the registration of land rights and adjudication of disputes. As the laws are being implemented by different agencies, there are overlaps in jurisdiction and mandates as well as duplication of functions and responsibilities. Moreover, some of the existing laws are anachronistic and requires urgent modification to suit in the present context. Therefore, governments may undertake:

- a special drive to digitise the land records and modernise the land management system on priority basis. This would also help in improving tenurial security and other aspects of implementation of land reform.
- Digitisation of land records is essential. However, many countries do not have requisite technical know-how and inadequacy of funds to take up this important assignment. In view of this, it is expected that countries which have gone ahead in this exercise may help the countries who are lagging behind in terms of technology and financial support for the massive task.
- The existing legislation and rules there on relating to land are not easily available to all stakeholders. So that there is lack of awareness and understanding about the provisions of the laws, rules and regulations. Therefore, all legislation may be made available in public domain and everybody can have access to it and awareness building may be done in a campaign mode particularly focusing on their rights and obligation at the village level. There may be special efforts to build the capacity of the functionaries involved in this work.

10. Promoting participatory and autonomous co-operatives, self-help groups

In the absence of appropriate, albeit participatory rural institutions such as autonomous co-operatives, self-help groups, local self-governance etc., both delivery and receipt of support services remain weak. This also stands in the way of full utilisation of the potential of

redistributive land reform in reducing poverty and promoting social harmony and stability. It is therefore, suggested that:

- civil societies, in collaboration with governments, may make special efforts to help promote participatory and autonomous co-operatives, self-help groups etc. for enhancing the capacities of land reform beneficiaries to benefit from reforms.

11. Strengthening local governance

Conceptually, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms are critical tools for tracking progress of implementation and measuring the outcomes and impacts of the programmes and projects. The direction and soundness of any national policies are critically dependent upon the accuracy of M&E results. Unfortunately, obtaining adequate and accurate data and information on the status of implementation of projects, though important for development of an efficient management information system, is hard to come by. Indeed, the need for instituting a regular M&E system to track the progress of development efforts in relation to the national development objectives, goals and targets has been emphatically noted since mid-1970s, but no systematic mechanism seems to have been set up in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region with a few exception, e.g. Malaysia. This is further proved in the present study as noted that serious data gaps exist due to a number of constraints in the collection of data and information and their comparison across regions and time. These constraints or gaps as reported were:

- o Unclear definition of landlessness and precise information on degree of landlessness in different census/surveys unavailable.
- o Frequent changes in methodology results in incomparable data/information.
- o Mostly data on land are collected at households level which leads to a partial understanding of land ownership.
- o Definition of indigenous people is not clear.
- o Complexity to obtain land information
- o Data on common properties are not properly gathered and maintained.
- o Gender disaggregated data are difficult to get.

In order to address these problems identified in the study, the following suggestions were made for consideration:

- it is felt necessary that an effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism has to be set up and institutionalised on a regular basis for effective monitoring system at the local level for tracking the progress of agrarian reform and sustainable rural development.
- there is a need to decentralise the land administration for better delivery of services. Thus, the local government institutions will be the grassroots unit of administration for land management and also function as a resource centre for storing relevant data pertaining to all aspects of land within its jurisdiction. Local government institutions may be endowed with such power and functions to settle dispute and manage land-related issues at the local level.
- in view of the problems and issues emerging from the study and discussion there on and existing scenario of land management, CIRDAP with support from IFAD may take up an action research on how decentralised land administration with community participation can yield better result.
- considering the utility of the present study in the select country, it is required to expand the geographical spread of this study. Therefore, the study could be further expanded to other CIRDAP member countries. IFAD may consider to fund the extended study in other countries.

12. Building strategic partnership with rural institutions at local & international level

In addition, the consultation also put forward the following suggestions for kind consideration of the respective authorities:

- In the absence of appropriate rural institutions such as co-operatives, self-help groups etc, both delivery and receipt of support services provided by various governments remain weak. This also stands in the way of full utilisation of the potential of redistributive land reform in reducing poverty and promoting social harmony and stability. Governments and civil societies will have to make special efforts to promote such institutions conducive to meet such requirements.
- The Declaration of International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) as adopted at Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2006, has suggested agrarian reform and rural development complementary to each other's success. To take the critical issues forward, FAO, IFAD and CIRDAP and other organisations should take special efforts to promote research, training and policy advocacy for implementation of various recommendations of ICARRD. Also a strategic partnership and networking with organisations engaged in this field has to be evolved for regular policy dialogue and effective implementation of ICARRD Declaration.

13. Regional level platform

Considering that land is a sensitive subject rooted to the soil as well as to the traditions and culture of nation, therefore, formulation on critical issues would be done by a team internal to CIRDAP. Moreover, CIRDAP will be a suitable regional forum to take up these issues at the regional level as also for country-specific requirements in terms of research, training, capacity building and advocacy along with other international and specialised organisations engaged in this arena. CIRDAP can have a regional networking with various organisations and can play a vital role in collecting and collating data on various facets of land and function as resource centre. Such data will be easily accessible by the member countries in order to formulate their policies. CIRDAP along with its link institutions, some of them are specialised in land related issues, will prepare and present issues before the forth coming policy dialogue of CIRDAP to be held in January 2010 where high level policymakers of CMCs (Ministers and Secretaries of the Ministry concerned) are expected to attend. The inputs from all international and specialised institutions will be relevant in drafting the policy paper for the purpose.

Redefining Role of CIRDAP

A five-member Evaluation Committee was 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 in line with the Terms of Reference approved by the policy bodies. The committee prepared and submitted its report to CIRDAP Management in February 2009. The draft report was circulated among the members of the policy bodies of CIRDAP for their comments and suggestions. So far, seven CMCs made detailed comments and the report was revised accordingly.



DG CIRDAP along with Evaluation Committee members

An Assessment of RD Initiatives in CMCs: Future Opportunities

CIRDAP organised the event 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 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 carried out simultaneously, would provide sufficient basis to 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. The country reports were reviewed by an independent reviewer on the standard and suitability of the reports for publication. As planned, all the twelve reports and an Overview paper have been published individually.

30th Founding Day Programme: Changing Rural Livelihoods

CIRDAP, on the occasion of its 30th founding anniversary, held a Seminar on 'Changing Rural Livelihoods in the CIRDAP Member Countries: Opportunities and Constraints', at the Centre's Headquarters in Dhaka on 6 July 2009. Academicians, rural development practitioners, and development professionals took part in the half-day seminar.

The seminar was chaired by the Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP. Two papers on Changing Rural Livelihoods in the South Asia and Southeast Asian Region were presented by Dr. S.K. Singh, Director Training of CIRDAP, and Dr. Mokbul Morshed Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand respectively.



Dr. Paudyal, in his brief introduction, welcomed the participants and explained the background and context of CIRDAP's inception in the year of 1979. Describing lack of education as a vital problem for not changing livelihoods in the region, he emphasised that the countries of the Asia-Pacific region should be educated for removing poverty from the region. He mentioned that CIRDAP was established with a mandate to establish national action, promote regional cooperation and provide necessary services to rural development policies in the countries of Asia-Pacific region. Over the last 30 years, CIRDAP has contributed enormously by providing professional services such as enhancing operational capacity building of the rural development functionaries, monitoring the implementation process and reviewing the achievements of rural development programmes.



The session in progress

Citing the statistics of FAO that the level of poverty in Asia-Pacific region has increased in 2007 despite the constant economic growth in most countries, DG CIRDAP noted that in spite of a sea of changes in the policy context at national and international level, CIRDAP is still relevant for better implementation of rural development policy and reducing rural poverty. He emphasised the need for more research on the issues such as the capacity building of local governments, access and management of natural resources, generation of productive employment, access of poor to the public services etc.

Director General, CIRDAP raised his concern to effective utilisation of the development aid to generate sustainable livelihoods, particularly in the rural areas by increasing close cooperation and more professional services at the local level and national level to synchronise policies and synergies achievements among various stakeholders. In this context he referred to the decision of the Governing Council Meetings of CIRDAP in Manila that CIRDAP may require repositioning itself to new approaches and strategies for rural development and poverty alleviation.

He briefly described the context of the selecting the topic of the seminar that the policy bodies of CIRDAP decided to hold the CIRDAP Second Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka in January 2010 where a regional dialogue would be held on the status of rural livelihoods in CMCs. In order to gather sufficient knowledge and understanding of the issues, the present seminar was organised. He expressed his hope that the distinguished participants will hear from the two experts who have chosen two regions covering Southeast Asia and South Asia and will provide enhanced knowledge on the issue for preparing policy papers for the policy dialogue of the Second Ministerial Meeting in November 2009.

Third Regional Policy Dialogue in Malaysia

CIRDAP policy bodies suggested CIRDAP to take initiative to share the best practices and cross-fertilisation of ideas through dialogue on relevant emerging issues in the Asia-Pacific region. In accordance with this, the first regional policy dialogue on 'Current Status and Future Perspectives of Rural Development in CMCs' was organised in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2005. The Second Regional Policy Dialogue was organised in 2007 in Manila, Philippines as a follow-up of ICARRD of FAO. As proposed at EC-17/GC-16, the third programme of the series was organised in Malaysia during 27-29 April 2009 in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia on the theme 'Success Story of Malaysia on Rural Transformation and Poverty Reduction' with the expectation to provide direct exposure of successful experience of rural transformation to the senior policymakers such as Ministers and Secretaries of the Ministries related to RD and PA from the CIRDAP countries and ASEAN.



The presentations in the dialogue were based on the following thematic areas:

- Rural Development Policies and Strategies in Malaysia;
- Institutional Aspects of RD Policy Implementation and Management;
- Economic and Social Infrastructure and Rural Development;
- Integrated Agricultural Development Policies and Rural Development;
- Rural Industries and Agri-businesses; and
- Export Competitiveness and Rural Development.

Finally, a video documentation on the success story of Malaysia on rural transformation and poverty alleviation is available.

Rural Development Report 2009

CIRDAP published a report on the progress and achievement in the context of rural development in the CMCs titled Rural Development Report (RDR). This biennial report is aimed at keeping the policymakers, planners and practitioners in the field of rural development in the Asia-Pacific region abreast with current information and analysis of the RD policies and strategies. The report covers all the CMCs, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The RDR 2009 has been prepared focusing on the theme as suggested by the CIRDAP policy body titled 'Changing Rural Livelihoods in CIRDAP Member Countries: Constraints and Opportunities. The report has been published.

A brief summary of the major findings are given below:

1. About 70 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas, and it is about 67 per cent in CMCs. The proportion ranges from 36 per cent in Malaysia to 85 per cent in Nepal. Though urban poverty is rising, the correlation between poverty and remoteness from urban centres is strong in most countries, and it is expected to remain so for many years to come. Rural development remains a key issue in the developing world in general and CMCs in particular.
2. While thinking on rural development in dynamic perspective, one can observe a renewed focus on people, particularly poor people, in rural areas. This is based on lessons learned from the past and insights from recent poverty assessments. The core assumption has long been that rural development activities benefit people. But the immediate focus of donor and government efforts has often been on either the resources themselves (forests, fisheries, agricultural land) or the structures that provide services to resource users (most often, research and extension organisations or, in the case of agriculture sector programmes, Ministries of Agriculture). Inadequate attention has been paid to the complexity of rural livelihoods and the multiple dimensions of rural poverty (their causes and effects). For the CMCs it has emerged as a critical issue in the whole gamut of rural development. The Rural Development Report 2009 has rightly focused on changing rural livelihoods and their constraints and opportunities.
3. Livelihood is increasingly becoming more complex, particularly in the rural areas over the last decade. Perception of livelihood has undergone changes overtime. It may be argued that rural livelihoods can never be understood in any one-track logic - be it economic, social, technical, cultural or political. Livelihood is 'the means of gaining a living' or 'a combination of the resources used and the activities undertaken in order to live'. The issue of livelihood is multidimensional as it is not confined to a certain sector of economy. In this context, a livelihood at rural level comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. The issue of livelihood is also closely linked with sustainability. The main narrative in current development theory is the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA). This approach, which emerged in the 1980s and 1990s, challenges the small-farm as the engine of growth, while remaining consistent with the current bottom-up approach to rural development. In fact, sustainable rural livelihoods are the major challenge for any country or region. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base.
4. The new livelihoods approaches are attempting to address these problems by delinking the concepts 'rural' and 'agricultural' and widening the scope of rural development activity. They see sustainable poverty reduction as achievable only if external support works with people in a way that is congruent with their existing livelihood strategies and ability to adapt. As a system, livelihood consists of very diverse elements which - taken together - constitute the physical, economic, social and cultural universe wherein the families live. Thus the livelihood system is more than just a set of physico-economic preconditions for continued existence. It also includes psychosocial dimensions of experience of living. The livelihoods approach puts households of the poor as its central focus. It takes holistic consideration of things that the poor might be vulnerable to, assets and resources that help them thrive and survive, policies and institutions that impact their livelihoods, how the poor respond to threats and opportunities and what sort of outcomes the poor aspire to. Against this conceptual backdrop, a study has been undertaken to examine changing rural livelihoods in the CMCs with the following specific objectives:
 - Assessing the contribution of agricultural sector to poverty reduction and food security;
 - Examining the critical significance of non-farm economy and its linkages with poverty reduction and agriculture;
 - Understanding dynamics of rural livelihoods and growing rural-urban linkages in CMCs;

- Investigating the challenges and opportunities that rural people in CMCs face in sustaining their livelihoods under the changing milieu of socio-economic life; and
 - Exploring scope for regional cooperation for widening opportunities in rural livelihoods in CMCs.
5. Agriculture is the principal source of food, income, and employment for the majority, particularly the poorest in the CMCs. Growth in agriculture is, therefore, crucial for reducing poverty. But, the agricultural sector is facing the new challenges of diminishing land resources, factor productivity decline, threatened loss of bio-diversity, natural resource degradation, widening economic inequality, etc. that have serious implications on the livelihoods of the poor. Agriculture has also come under significant adjustment pressure from market liberalisation and globalisation. The changing consumer preferences have added to the complexities of adjustment. The food consumption pattern is diversifying towards high value commodities. The decline in per capita consumption of cereals in some countries, in particular coarse cereals, has worsened the nutritional status of the rural poor.
 6. Generally, governments in CMCs have been implementing economic liberalisation programmes since the early 1990s. Liberalisation followed with significant growth in services and industry causing structural transformation in which process the share of agriculture in GDP declined to about one-fourth of total GDP. The agriculture policies of CMCs have also witnessed major changes in terms of adjustment of tariffs, subsidies, and land reforms. Reports from different CMCs demonstrate the impact of ongoing liberalisation process on rural development. For example, Indian country report shows that promotion of 'exports of agriculture products' received greater attention under the process of economic liberalisation and its effects on incomes of the farmers and employment of the poor were considered favourable.
 7. The major thrusts of policies and programmes of different CMCs have been observed in the areas of poverty reduction, people and human resources, food security, rural infrastructure, access to farm and non-farm credit and technology, agricultural supply chains, targeting social safety nets, NGOs in development, migration, climate change and consumer price index. These sectors of rural development are directly linked with livelihood resources, livelihood strategies and livelihood outcomes. One can observe similarities and differences in these policies and themes that the CMCs have formulated and pursued over the years.
 8. Gender is an integral and inseparable part of rural livelihoods. Indeed, gender is a core element of social relationships because it expresses a set of psychological and cultural characteristics and the functions and roles that a given society assigns to men and women according to which their activities are valued and appreciated. Men and women have different assets, access to resources, and opportunities. Women rarely own land, may have lower education due to discriminatory access as children, and their access to productive resources as well as decision-making trend. As a consequence, gender inequalities are widespread within rural labour markets where multiple forms of employment are common, and where women and men may work in different combinations of employment, for example, as self-employed farmers, temporary waged workers, employers or unpaid family workers. Gender inequalities are also reflected in workers' representation, especially in organised labour institutions such as trade unions and traditional forms of collective action where women's representation is often weak. There is also the issue of women being paid a lesser pay than men for similar work in the agriculture sector.
 9. Since agriculture provides the foundation of the rural economy, rural development and agricultural development are often regarded as synonymous. However, despite primacy of agriculture as source of living, employment and exports especially in the agriculture dominated CMCs, broad based and sustainable rural development is indispensable for reduction of poverty and malnutrition and raising the standard of living of the millions inhabiting in the rural areas.
 10. The important features of agriculture in the CMCs are the high density of agricultural population, the prevalence of small and subsistence farms, and the scarcity of arable land. Agriculture remains the key sector of economic activity in the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The region accounts for only 23 per cent of the world's land area, but is the home for nearly 56 per cent of the total world's

population and 73 per cent of the world's agricultural population. Poverty remains a predominantly rural problem, and agriculture is generally central to rural livelihoods. Historically, rates of poverty reduction have been very closely related to agricultural performance - particularly to the rate of growth of agricultural productivity. In simple terms, this indicates that the countries that have increased their agricultural productivity the most have also achieved the significant reductions in poverty. Food security and adequate nutrition are determined by a number of factors that can be grouped as: a) the availability of food; b) economic access to food; and c) the way in which food is used (including interactions between diet and disease).

11. At the policy level of the CMCs, macroeconomic stability and economic growth received priority along with targeted programmes for poverty alleviation. As an issue, poverty alleviation remained a part of rural development and gradually occupied the central place in the development agenda. Accordingly, top priority to this issue is a common policy approach in all the countries. In each country different ministries are engaged in it, and increasing involvement of the NGO is also an emerging trend. Notion of poverty is not confined to economic deprivation; social deprivation is also adequately echoed. A variety of interventions is understood to be in place to create enabling environment with an increased emphasis on rural finance and other development inputs, including social and economic architecture.
12. The rural population density (rural population per sq. mile), per capita arable land, and agricultural land per worker vary widely across CMCs. In most of the countries, the land frontier has virtually been reached, indicating limited possibility of expansion of total arable land area. Historically such expansion has been the main source of agricultural growth in these countries. With increasing demand for diversified crop and livestock products, the area under food staples also shows declining trends in most countries. The approach to taxation in CMCs has changed over time. The tax structure of some of the CMCs has been regressive constraining business getting involved in development, welfare or charity. As far as subsidies concerned, most of the CMCs used to provide subsidised food and transportation, free medical care, free education and a variety of agriculture production subsidies and insurance programmes since the 1950s. It is argued that subsidies are provided to improving food security of poorer households. In the current context of globalisation and liberalisation, the subsidy policies of the western world should also be factored in while evolving appropriate agriculture and development policies.
13. Contrary to conventional wisdom that equates rural economies with agriculture; rural residents in developing countries often rely heavily on activities other than farming for their income. Indeed, non-farm work accounts for between one-third and one-half of rural incomes in the developing world. In recent years, accelerating globalisation, increasing competition from large businesses, expanding urban markets for rural goods and services, and greater availability of information and communication technology including efficient marketing policy and supply-chains, have been combined to expose rural non-farm businesses to new opportunities as well as new risks. There is recognition of the growing role of rural non-farm activities in CMCs. This type of capacity development programmes need to be initiated jointly by GOs and NGOs. In this regard, CIRDAP can explore experiences of other countries and can share among the CMCs.
14. There was a declining trend of proportional contribution of agriculture to the total GDP, but the proportional share of employed labour force in agriculture did not decrease, rather it increased during the last decade. Higher agricultural production index was found for livestock, fishery and forestry compared to the crop sector. Attempt should be made to increase the productivity of land by engaging reduced number of human labours, especially in crop sector through introducing modern technologies so that the surplus labour from agricultural sector can be engaged in non-agricultural sector. This will accelerate the economic growth, as the productivity of labour force in non-agricultural sector is higher than that of agricultural sector.
15. Data limitations, both data scarcity and because of out-dated data, prohibits focusing on the true significance of relative employment and income shares of the RNAs in CMCs. A commonly shared view, is, however, that the RNAs are growing in importance over time. The most commonly used and available indicator of the relative importance of the RNFE is its employment share. Based on scattered information available from multiple country profile of CMCs, the rural non-farm sector is seen to account for roughly 30 to 50 per cent of total rural employment in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. An important role played by the RNAs in most CMCs is to provide work opportunities in the slack periods of agricultural cycles. In CMCs, RNAs account for over 40 per cent of rural employment.

16. Despite considerable inter-country differences and data deficiency, the composition of the RNAs exhibits notable similarities across countries in CMCs. Country reports show that three major sectors such as manufacturing (mostly rural industries), trade and services dominate the RNFE in most countries. However, there is also some evidence showing a shift in composition of RNAs from manufacturing towards trade and services in the small localities with progress in development. In most of the CMCs, trade and services are the dominant sources of rural non-farm employment compared to household manufacturing activities in the rural areas.
17. Access to farm and non-farm credit and technology is a critical input to agricultural production. Generally, formal banks and finance institutions, NGOs and IGOs provide credit. In addition to agricultural loans, there have been special projects and credit schemes for the smallholder farmers. Although clearly emphasised in Sri Lankan country report, it is equally applicable to all the CMCs that microcredit has a special role in sustainable rural livelihoods. CMCs access to microcredit for farm and non-farm activities has been measured by counting the numbers of micro-financing organisations, total number of beneficiaries received microcredit by gender, amount of microcredit disbursement at national level by GOs and NGOs and impact of micro-credit on household income/expenditure based on the data available from government statistics. Issues of agricultural productivity, production, and technology are at the top of the agenda in some CMCs like Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand. The concerns come from the need to accelerate agricultural growth and farm incomes including non-farm growth, as well as growing concerns about food security. Besides, input delivery system should be drawn nearer to the receiving system which is proved conducive to investment and technology transfer. Among CMCs, like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, there are also countries which have not been able to utilise all cultivable lands and not been able to achieve optimal production levels, by using new technologies and new varieties of seeds. In terms of marketing and supply chains, access to urban markets is the key to increasing incomes for rural and peri-urban farmers.
18. The economic activities of rural women i.e. nature of their work and time use reveal specific characteristics in CMCs which, along with their unequal access to productive resources and other basic services and subordinate status in the society, make them more vulnerable to poverty and deprivation. In agriculture, women's participation largely manifests unpaid family labour. Despite recent increases in participation of rural women as wage labour in both farm and non-farm activities and problems of underestimation, significant regional patterns are observed in CMCs. The economic participation rates are, in general, higher in rural than in urban areas across all countries. It was also reported that the recorded rates in Southeast Asian CMCs are higher compared to South Asian CMCs since the cultural norms in Southeast Asia put less restriction on women's participation in field activities.
19. In spite of repeated slogans and diverse approaches of rural development in the last 50 years, there are regions in CMCs which are still backward. A significant proportion of the population continues to live below the poverty line (a minimum subsistence income level used by international and national criteria). In addition, economic liberalisation programmes pursued by CMCs over the last two decades have caused considerable pressures on the poor and marginalised sections of people. Rural development has been neglected in many of these countries.
20. The issue of rural livelihoods in CIRDAP countries is receiving increased attention in discussions about rural development. In most of the cases, the household assets and activities and income diversification lie at the heart of rural livelihood strategies in CMCs. Under the changing nature of rural livelihood scenarios, diversification of activities has positive attributes for livelihood security of individuals and households in CMCs. For example, these days rural India has been witnessing expansion of enterprises in the non-agriculture sector. Mainly the technology and market support has been providing opportunity to achieve rural livelihood diversification in CMCs. Internally improving labour market opportunities outside agriculture, decreasing proportion of agricultural activities, increasing standard of living, opportunity to access a range of income sources in rural area; and externally the globally inter-connected economy, free movement of resources etc. have been playing key role in diversifying livelihood practices in rural CMCs.
21. The policy implications of linkages between the agricultural and non-agricultural sector are particularly important. Rural development programmes have traditionally tended to increase agricultural production but have often neglected RNAs such as the processing of raw agricultural materials and the manufacturing of agricultural equipment, tools and inputs, and this has resulted in the marginalisation of some groups in rural areas. In Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), policymakers have frequently paid little attention to the rural non-farm sector.

22. Agricultural policies and different rural development programmes in all CMCs unambiguously emphasise an integrated development strategy that has been followed to make the growth process rapid and inclusive. The concept of integrated development, set as an objective in this region, is dynamic and evolving and it envisages linkages of goals of growth and equity so as to make them mutually reinforcing and in the process maximise positive synergies.
23. Based on this framework, it may be worthwhile to identify the constraints and opportunities in the realm of rural livelihoods in CMCs. As far as constraints are concerned there may be observed a number of issues adversely influencing directions of rural development in most of the CMCs. First, an absence of appropriate structures can be a major constraint to development. This is a particular problem in remote rural areas. Many important organisations - both private and public sector - do not reach these areas. As a result services go undelivered, markets do not function, and people's overall vulnerability and poverty increases. Moreover, when people do not have access to organisations of the state they often have little knowledge of their rights and only a very limited understanding of the way in which government functions. This disenfranchises them and makes it hard for them to exert pressure for change in the processes (policies, legislation, etc.) that affect their livelihoods.

Second, processes are often seen to be barriers to the development of rural livelihoods. It is argued that if structures can be thought of as hardware, processes can be thought of as software. They determine the way in which structures - and individuals - operate and interact. And like software, they are both crucial and complex: not only are there many types of processes operating at a variety of different levels, but there is also overlap and conflict between them.

Third, like other regions, rural livelihoods in CMCs are affected by the process of globalisation. Fourth, the CMCs are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Climate change is increasingly important as a livelihood issue for CMCs. It poses a new challenge to rural livelihoods of CMCs. Climate change affects household's ability to produce food, and procure income. It also affects rural household's ability to sustain social safety nets that could be used to relieve stress during crises. Indeed, environmental change has immediate and direct effects on the health and well-being of millions of households that depend on natural resources for their basic livelihoods. When weather changes reduce families' livelihood options, these changes can act as a 'push' factor: People leave resource-dependent rural areas and create new migration patterns. Because migration represents a tremendous force of social change, the potential for climate change to increase migration deserves careful consideration and policy attention. Rural households tend to rely heavily on climate-sensitive resources such as local water supplies and agricultural land; climate-sensitive activities such as arable farming and livestock husbandry; and natural resources such as fuel wood and wild herbs. Climate change can reduce the availability of these local natural resources, limiting the options for rural households that depend on natural resources for consumption or trade. Land may become less fertile; fewer reeds may be available for basket making; there may be less local fuel wood for cooking. Fifth, population pressure in CMCs is very high. Some of the most densely populated counties are part of this region. Sixth, generally it is difficult to have access of information, markets, and credit facilities. Seventh, some of the CMCs such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and the Philippines are prone to natural calamities-severe cyclones, flooding, and drought. Eighth, land conversion poses a threat to rural livelihoods in some of the CMCs. The Philippines is an example.

24. The opportunities for rural livelihoods in CMCs are closely linked with assets/capital and capabilities of rural people in the changed context of economic development marked by liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. The first major opportunity comes with growing livelihood diversification in CMCs which is an outcome of rising non-farm activities. The non-farm economy offers wider scope for engaging in various categories of employment. Second, rural people have better chance to improve their assets which have eventually increased their capabilities. Access to financial, human and physical assets has increased in most of the CMCs. Third, positive rural urban linkages are beneficial for rural livelihoods. Fourth, subsidies, technology services could play a crucial role in supporting some sectors in rural economy. Fifth, micro credit spurs rural livelihoods in some of the CMCs like Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, etc. Sixth, use of ICT is a common phenomenon. Sixth, new opportunities are created by changing nature of agriculture. The traditional practice of agriculture needs to be changed in view of increasing pressures for high income and productivity.
25. Particularly, agriculture in a new environment may provide some opportunities for CMCs. First, food markets and agricultural production are rapidly changing in the region. Food safety and animal health in extended food chains has become increasingly important and production systems have changed as a

result. Consumers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for quality and food-safety and a larger share of consumer food purchases are now made through supermarkets that can ensure these demands are met. Second, agriculture energy (bio-fuel) production has the potential to create an opportunity for farmers through increasing demand for agricultural products, including for bio-mass products. Third, enabling small-holder farmers to produce for and connect to these new markets is a challenge for the public and private sector in the region. The productivity advantage of small farms is thought to be derived from lower labour costs, using family labour and working closely with hired workers. The new markets often entail higher capital intensity in production, greater risks (perceived and real) and demand new skills. Fourth, information and communications technologies are increasingly used to provide farmers with timely and adequate access to information on inputs and output markets. Institutional innovations are also under way in credit markets. Economies of scale in supplying value-chains and meeting required quality and safety standards for high-value products can often not be met by small farmers acting individually. Thus, challenges and opportunities as identified above may contribute to sustainable rural livelihoods in CMCs which can be bedrock for rural development.

26. CIRDAP's vision is to see a poverty-free and prosperous Asia-Pacific region through effective implementation of RD and PA processes in a globalised environment representing paradigm shifts in the national development policies and strategies. In this process of paradigm shifts regional cooperation under the auspices of CIRDAP as a specialised intergovernmental body needs to be invigorated. There is a need for CIRDAP to focus on emerging conditions of rural and farming communities. Given the levels of rural and agrarian poverty, there is a need for supporting both the farm and the non-farm sectors in rural areas to be more competitive nationally and internationally. In this regard there is a need for matching opportunities presented by globalisation and rural production orientation in which process CIRDAP can assist the CMCs to devise policy strategies. In such strategies, besides tax incentives, challenges presented by technologies for value addition and appropriate infrastructure should be considered. One major area that CIRDAP can intervene in this regard is dissemination of best practices. In the latter respect, CIRDAP can also play a bridging role between associations such as SAARC and ASEAN, especially with an aim to learn from successful strategies of ASEAN in rural development. For instance, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has the resource for assisting the neighbouring countries to share the South Korean success stories. CIRDAP also can work with national and regional NGOs, making them work for the benefit of CMCs and play an advocacy role. Long-term food security demands research and investment in low-cost technology that is accessible to the poor small producers. CIRDAP could play a vital role to advocate the government and international agencies for taking special programmes to address food insecurity problem. An effective market regulatory system could be established in CMCs with technical support from CIRDAP. CIRDAP can play an important role to integrate CMCs into global economy, and to investigate its impact on agriculture, rural areas and farmers in CMCs. CIRDAP could play many roles in promoting and enhancing the involvement of women in development, political and economic activities. For example, CIRDAP may promote respect for the rights of women as an integral part of human rights and fundamental freedoms for local communities.
27. Before embarking upon a rejuvenated role, CIRDAP needs to take into account the changed context of human life which is critical in implementing different programmes and activities under its purview. The current socio-economic, political and politico-technological context is qualitatively different from the pre-reform era. A series of new development paradigms has been introduced with its associated short and long term benefits and costs. The information technology revolution has reduced the time lags in information flows and has emerged as a key instrument of economic growth, poverty reduction and human development. While the liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation (LPG) policies have benefited several countries in terms of high growth of GDP and employment opportunities for skilled labour, their impact has been found to be adverse to the poor and agriculture sector more so in the South Asian countries.

The CMCs from South Asia have yet to cope up with the new opportunities and challenges of the WTO and free trade. Undoubtedly, CIRDAP has been well placed to play a significant role in improving rural livelihoods, enhancing agricultural productivity and infrastructure support. The strength of CIRDAP lies in three fundamental elements. First, it is a regional institution cutting across 14 South Asian and East Asian countries. Second, it is government-based and therefore would have government entities as its link in member countries. Third, its primary theme is rural development. With this strength CIRDAP can play a critical role to promote sustainable rural livelihoods in CMCs through addressing the constraints and widening the horizons of opportunities.

Pilot Projects

- Health Care for Rural School Children in Bangladesh
- Knowledge Generation on Hygiene Care
- Workshop on Reduction of Post-harvest Agricultural Crops Losses
- Success Stories of CMCs

Focused Areas

- Suitable action research
- Enhancing skills and capacities
- Good health of rural poor school children
- Reducing post-harvest agri-crop losses
- Improving storage methods

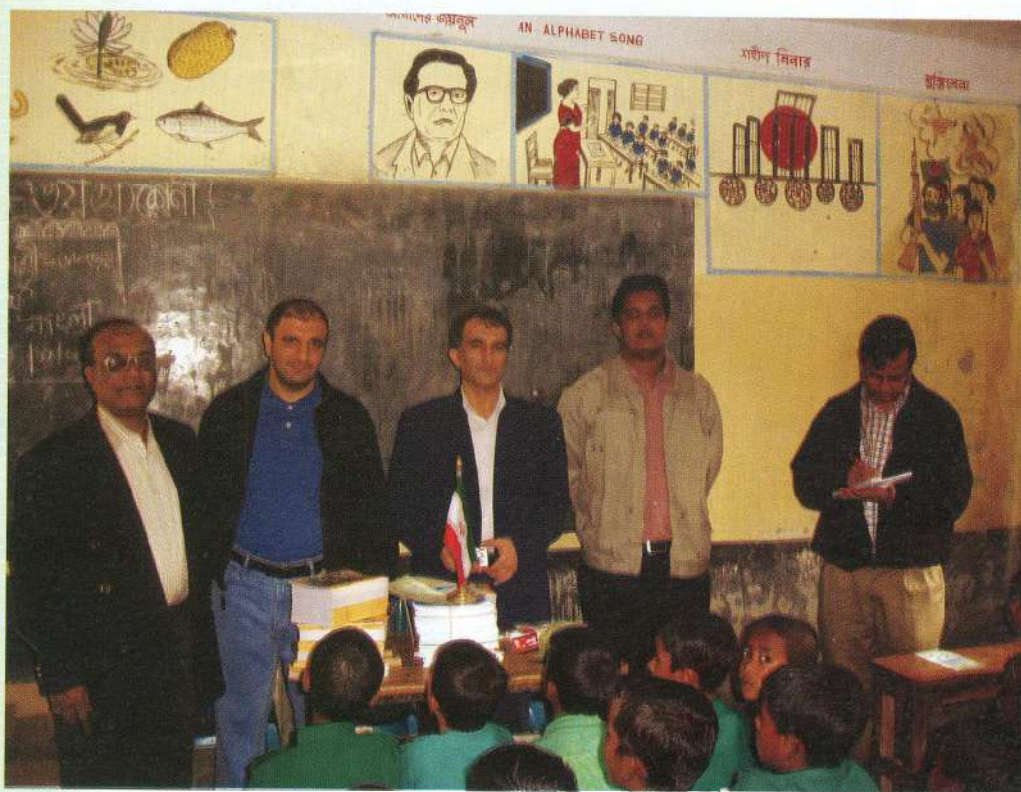


Pilot Projects Division

The Action Research/Pilot Projects was envisaged in the 'Charter of Agreement' for the establishment of CIRDAP as one of its major programme of activities. The emphasis on action research is also in line with the 'Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)' in 1979. However, the initial project ideas of CIRDAP's action research projects emanated in October 1981 from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and in the subsequent discussions with the Government of Japan. It was then recommended in September 1982 that CIRDAP programming should be more focused towards action-oriented activities benefiting the rural population at the grassroots level and that FAO should initiate cooperation with CIRDAP to develop such programmes. Furthermore, the emphasis on strengthening the action research programmes in CIRDAP has been tested for over one and a half decade in all the CMCs. It is a viable alternative for fostering people's participation in rural development programmes through institution building, human resource development and GO-NGO collaboration.

The action research/pilot projects aim to identify appropriate institutions, methodologies and technologies to enhance skills and build capacities of human resource development, of villagers for income generation and for other productive as well as social welfare/development activities.

The specific objectives of CIRDAP action research/ pilot projects are: (1) to identify suitable action programmes in the CMCs with respect to rural development and allied activities; (2) to plan and assist in preparing projects proposals for implementation of the action oriented programmes; (3) to help in the participatory monitoring and evaluation of the progress of rural development programmes; (4) to help develop and demonstrate viable development models and to assist in the replication of the successful action research programmes in other areas/countries; and (5) to facilitate formulation and implementation of policies on rural development with emphasis on poverty reduction and sustainable development.



A briefing session on hygiene care to the school children

Health Care Programme for Rural School Children in Bangladesh



The school children being checked up

Hatigara Government Primary School

This health check-up programme for selective rural school children was a collaborative programme among CIRDAP, Shefa Khana, Darul Quran Khana and BARD for awareness building and providing curative services by a qualified group of doctors (consists of G.P. and dentists). This programme was aimed to keep the rural children healthy and help them to attend the school regularly. Based on the findings, CIRDAP would like to recommend the policymakers to take appropriate measures on school health programme.

In view of this, a group of doctors consists of two dentists, one General Practitioner and one assistant and two PPD/ Action Research staff-members, in guidance and leadership of Director PPD, visited Hatigara Government Primary School, Kalir Hut Adarsha Sadar, Kotoyali Thana, Comilla on 18 June 2009 to launch the day-long health check-up programme for school children.

The team used some common medicines on various general diseases like headache, diarrhoea, stomach pain, skin disease, fever, cold, cough etc. and dental problem. The doctors started to treat the students from class one and accordingly, provided them with free medicines, prescriptions and explanation of the procedure of taking the medicines after diagnosis of the diseases. Also, they were given health cards, which were duly filled up, by a teacher for future reference. The school teachers would follow up with the treated students regarding the use of medicines which were provided by the team.

A School Managing Committee member, Additional Director General, BARD, and all the four teachers were present there during the programme. Getting a spontaneous response from the school, the doctors treated as many as almost 200 students from class I to IV though the original plan was to treat the students of class I and II only. In presence of the guardians of the eight students, teeth's were plucked due to various gum and dental problem. The dentist team was fully equipped with the support services for operating the teeth. The project team found that the socio-economic conditions of the many of the treated students were bad which made them come to the project health camp. So it is suggested that the supplementary project would be beneficial to them.

Shamsul Huda Kindergarten School

The previous health Check-up programme at Hatigara Govt. Primary School, Kalir Hut Adarsha Sadar, Comilla on 18 June 2009 encouraged PPD project team to move on and draw more attention about rural school children health especially, on the Milk Teeth, which was found the main problem with many students. Many of them had been suffering for long time and had not been able to continue their classes due to pain and fever. Many of the students were found sick due to following reasons: a) No access to the Health Care Centre near the Rural Area; b) The parents are poor and cannot support financially to address Milk Teeth problem; c) No enough information and knowledge about the healthy teeth as there is no educated person in the family; and d) Children do not care about the teeth and also are not asked to do.

Another health Check-up programme was initiated with collaboration among CIRDAP, Shefa Khana, Darul Quran Foundation supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran and BARD in Shamsul Huda Kindergarten School in Bashail, Tangail on 02 July 2009. The important activities of the Health Check-up programme were: a) Awareness building of school children and their parents with the health situation of the children and encouraging them to practise the health principals; b) Providing curative services by a qualified group of doctors; c) Launching free treatment services and medicines to poor school children who could not afford the treatments due to financial scarcity; and d) Helping them to attend the school regularly and not to be absent due to illness.

The project team was consisted of two dentists, one General Practitioner and one assistant, Joint Director, BARD and Secretary, PPD in guidance and leadership of Director PPD in the Health check-up programme for school. Firstly, Director PPD and the doctors explained the programme briefly to the Principal and other teachers, and they were asked for their kind cooperation to mobilise the students to gather and their parents to make lines for taking the services on both medicine and dental. The school founder and all the teachers were present during the programme. The necessary prescriptions were given to the treated children with free medicines. A total of 33 students teeth were extracted by the qualified project dentists as per requirements, in the presence of the guardians/mothers. Most of the operated students had bad toothache for many weeks, mostly occurred at night. But due to financial problem they could not go to the dentist, as the dental services are more expensive. More than 240 children were checked up and treated.

Knowledge Generation on Hygiene Care

With the scenario of lack of hygiene facilities in rural areas, PPD, CIRDAP organised some curative and preventive measures like awareness on hygiene practices, and providing general health services by a group of qualified doctors to the most vulnerable rural school children. During the treatments, the medical team found that diseases like diarrhoea, stomach pain, skin disease, fever, cold, cough and dental problem are common.

Accordingly, PPD made some preventive measures like distributing a total of 1000 'Hygiene Care Pack' to rural poor school children containing basic items like Soap, Shampoo, Comb, Nail Cutter, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brush and small Towel etc. along with pictorial 'Brochure' as user manual in Bangla, and health book titled 'Where There is No Doctor' in Bangla, sponsored by Embassy of I.R. Iran in Bangladesh. This would help the poor primary school children to learn general hygiene practices and remain healthy and disease free.

The 'One thousand Hygiene Care Distribution' programme took place two primary rural schools on 22 December 2009 in Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila (Kishoreganj District), which is 150 kilometre from Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The 10-member team led by Director, PPD, consists of APO & Secretary, PPD, two dentists and one assistant from Shefa Khana, Darul Quran International Foundation, one representative from I.R. Iran Embassy in Dhaka and one representative from BARD, the link institution of CIRDAP. During the treatments of school children in last two programmes in Tangail and Comilla Districts, the medical team found that the diseases like diarrhoea, stomach pain, skin disease, fever, cold, cough and dental problem are common.

According to last two programmes feedback, PPD decided to organise this distribution of hygiene care pack which was aimed for a preventive measure by general awareness on basic hygiene care. This is the second phase of the health project for remote rural poor school children. Fifty books namely 'Where There Is No Doctor' were also distributed in the programme along with some medical check-up programme.

Syed Nazrul Islam Primary School

The project team reached at school namely, Syed Nazrul Islam Primary School in Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazilla, Kishoreganj District, along with Upzila Nirbahi Officer Mr. Mohammad Nura Alam Siddique, who was Chief Guest of the programme. Director, PPD introduced the project team to the Upzila Nirbahi Officer and also to the school authority. There was a short discussion among the project team, school teachers and the concerned school authority on the issues like: (a) the project and sponsor, (b) CIRDAP, (c) methodology for distributing programme and (d) some health check-up programme. Apart from school teachers, some other stakeholders were present there like President and member of the school managing committee, teachers, Union Council Chairman (Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila) and Upzila Education Officer.

The school children gathered in the classroom greeted the project team very nicely. One of the doctors of project briefed about the hygiene care brochure and demonstrated how to use the items in the distribution pack. The briefing was in easy Bangla, about how to a) wash hands, b) clean nails, c) brush teeth with tooth brush and paste, d) clean hair, and e) use towel. After ensuring that the children understood the basic issues of hygiene care mentioned in the brochure, the hygiene care packs were distributed within all classrooms in a disciplined manner. Approximate a total of 600 children were very excited and happy to receive the gifts. During distribution, there were some check-up programme on teeth and general health along with free medicine, organised for a total of around 70 students, who were found sick in the school by the two doctors of project and his assistances. Apart from distribution and check-up programme, some books namely 'Where There Is No Doctor' were also distributed in the programme for the couple of school libraries, mosques and the Union Parishad of Joshudol under Kishoreganj Sadar Upazilla, Kishoreganj District.

Birdampara Government Primary School

A total of students around 350 students were gathered in the ground of Birdampara Government Primary School (Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazilla, Kishoreganj District) in several lines from Class I to V, who were gathered for participating in the distribution programme in the late afternoon on 22 December 2009.



In the same way like first programme in Syed Nazrul Islam Primary School, the team followed the same methodology with little change of venue like distribution in play ground to save the time and implement the programme in fresh air to be enjoyable to children. Accordingly, one project doctor briefed them and demonstrated how to use the items to be distributed. Apart from distribution and check-up programme, some books namely 'Where There Is No Doctor' were also distributed in the programme for the schools libraries and mosques around for benefit of the common people.

However, all the students were not present at the school on the day of distribution, but many of the surrounding children were gathered to see the programme. About 40 hygiene care packs were given to the kids around, for avoiding any discrimination in the neighbourhood and children's mind and rest of the some packs were given to the kids of teachers in the both schools. Moreover, 1000 numbers of Juvenile News Letter in Bangle, published by Cultural Centre of I.R. Iran Embassy in Dhaka, containing stories, features on religion, science, math and education tips which are suitable to adolescent children were distributed to the children of both the schools. Coincidentally, it was day of providing result in Class V which added the programme an additional incentive to the students.

PPD, CIRDAP would like to concentrate more to implement the health care programme as it has been appreciated by some CMCs like Pakistan during EC-27.

Workshop on Reduction of Post-harvest Agri-crop Losses

Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP organised a workshop on 'Reduction of Post-Harvest Agricultural Crops Losses', on 23 November 2009 at CIRDAP Auditorium. This workshop was organised with a hope to continue further national and regional collaboration on post-harvest involving relevant institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders, in the midst of frequent natural calamities, rising population as well as the declining trend in agricultural investment has put food security in the Asia-Pacific countries under threat. The situation eventually gave rise to prices of commodities going beyond the purchasing power of the millions of poor consumers, leaving them underfed and malnourished, as the workshop said. Besides, 30-50 per cent of Agricultural crops do not reach the final consumers and getting lost which make less profit to the farmers and food stakeholders and enhancing food security risk based on FAO documents. Natural calamities are beyond control, managing and controlling the crops loss are easily accessible, if some investments are made on the processing of agricultural crops, mainly in the post-harvest chain,' as experts mentioned in this very relevant workshop of this time around.



The session going on

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Ahmed Hossain Khan, Government of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the workshop. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, delivered the welcome address as the inaugural session was initiated by the recitation of the holy Quraan by Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director PPD. Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Director ICD, and Dr. S.K. Singh, Director Training, were present during inauguration session along with Dr. S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BIRRI) and Dr. Md. Shahjahan, National Consultant, Horticulture and Agro-processed Foods Sector, Bangladesh

Quality Support Programme (BQSP), EPB. Dr Durga P. Paudyal, Director General CIRDAP, was in the Chair of the Inauguration Session and opined that :a) Post-harvest loss is a common problem in the countries of Asia-Pacific though it differs to the context of the countries improvement in the chain of post-harvest, b) Globalisation process has changed the context, in the midst of price raising of food commodities in the light of food security, c) Agriculture productivities have come up as crucial factor of food security, d) Climate change has come up with the impact of natural calamities on agriculture, e) Sustainable livelihood issues should be brought to the policymakers, and f) Reduction of post-harvest chain is crucial for food security where land is scarce.

Workshop Group Recommendations

Five papers were presented during the workshop. The workshop experts, participants were divided into two working groups, namely, horticulture and technology who came up with the certain recommendations which were:

i. Horticulture

- Providing necessary support to the entrepreneurs for establishing agro-based industry in major growing areas of agricultural produce.
- Developing contract farming system for production of raw materials especially fruits and vegetables.
- Conducting training for development of human resources on various aspects of the technologies of agro-processing, and selection and operation of processing equipment.
- Introducing cool chain supply system for horticultural crops in order to reduce both quantitative and qualitative losses.
- Developing system for providing accredited testing services to the enterprises through strengthening BSTI.
- Increasing funding for research to develop post-harvest management of fresh and processed products and processing and preservation technologies for shelf stable quality product.
- Establishing modern packaging institution capable of counselling exporters and food processors in improving food packaging to international food standards.
- Traceability system should be developed from market to field for each of the product.
- Research organisation and universities should work together to improve the present post-harvest management situation.
- Accessing the high quality fresh and processed food into supermarkets and international market, national standard should be developed and international standard such as ISO, and HACCP should be followed.
- Using conventional and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables (Research and Extension).

ii. Technology

- Gradual transition to mechanical harvesting from manual harvesting with the improvement of the reaper for loss reduction.
- Large-scale extension of pedal and power threshers.
- Introduction of dryer for wet season crops on rental service basis.
- Modification of existing traditional storage structures in the form of
 - a. providing rodent proof cover for traditional storage structures
 - b. improving further the traditional storage systems providing polyethylene lining inside these structures

- c. low cost air tight cocoon such as constructing low cost airtight storage systems using locally available rexin developed at BAU.
- Gradual transition to rubber roll huller from angle berg huller for milling of rice.
- Training on awareness building on the importance of post-harvest loss reduction and on improved post-harvest technologies for loss reduction.
- National post-harvest technology centre should be established to coordinate research and extension on post-harvest loss reduction and better management of post-harvest systems.

Reducing Post-harvest Losses by Improving Storage Methods

PPD prepared the proposal on 'Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses by Improving Storage Methods and Technologies' and sent it to the concerned authority in Iran as per discussion by TC-25. This proposed the action research project would be implemented for 36 months in collaboration with Agricultural and Rural Development Planning and Economic Research Institute (ARDPERI) under Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, I. R. Iran.

Success Stories of CMCs

CIRDAP has been persuading its member countries through its Link Institutions to share their experiences of 'best practices' as 'success stories' for disseminations on various programmes, with a view of to be the hub of knowledge, for promoting rural development and poverty alleviation for the people of Asia-Pacific region in collaboration with CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). The Centre has published a book entitled 'Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Success Stories in CIRDAP Countries. Apart from this, CLIs provide their reports on 'success stories' time to time, especially during Technical Committee (TC) meeting, where there is a scope for discussions on project proposals, along with other professional matters.

CIRDAP Evaluation Committee (CEC) 2009 was constituted by the Governing Council to look into the activities of the Centre, so as to remain contextual and relevant to the CMCs and to examine in-depth the opportunities that can be tapped in rapidly changing global scenario. Presently, CIRDAP has networking with link institutions designated by the member countries for various activities related with rural development. Accordingly, Pilot Projects/Action Research Division has taken an initiative to prepare concept papers and project ideas on the 'best practices' of various CMCs on the issues like microcredit, rural livelihoods through e-governance, agrarian reform, seed technology, renewable energy, small-scale irrigation, rural tourism, land development model, self-help organisations, rural enterprise model, watershed etc. which has a option to incorporate the feedback from the CLIs. This would help to organise proposed workshops (2010-2011), based on the Success Stories of various CMCs, which were already received from the CLIs. It would also sought to explain and promote the cause, effect, means and end of 'best practices' in the host country and disseminate the knowledge for replication to other CMCs, considering the country context. Finally, PPD expects to explore the need for specific action research projects and areas of financial co-operation in collaboration with CMCs by organising the proposed workshops, aiming to take a regional approach as well as bilateral approach to problems and solutions.

Other Project Proposals

PPD received some proposals from some CMCs on Vermicompost Application to Farmers, Microcredit, Eco-tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation and Redesigning Local Governance, Rural Water Supply etc. for next biennium.

Training

Regional Programmes

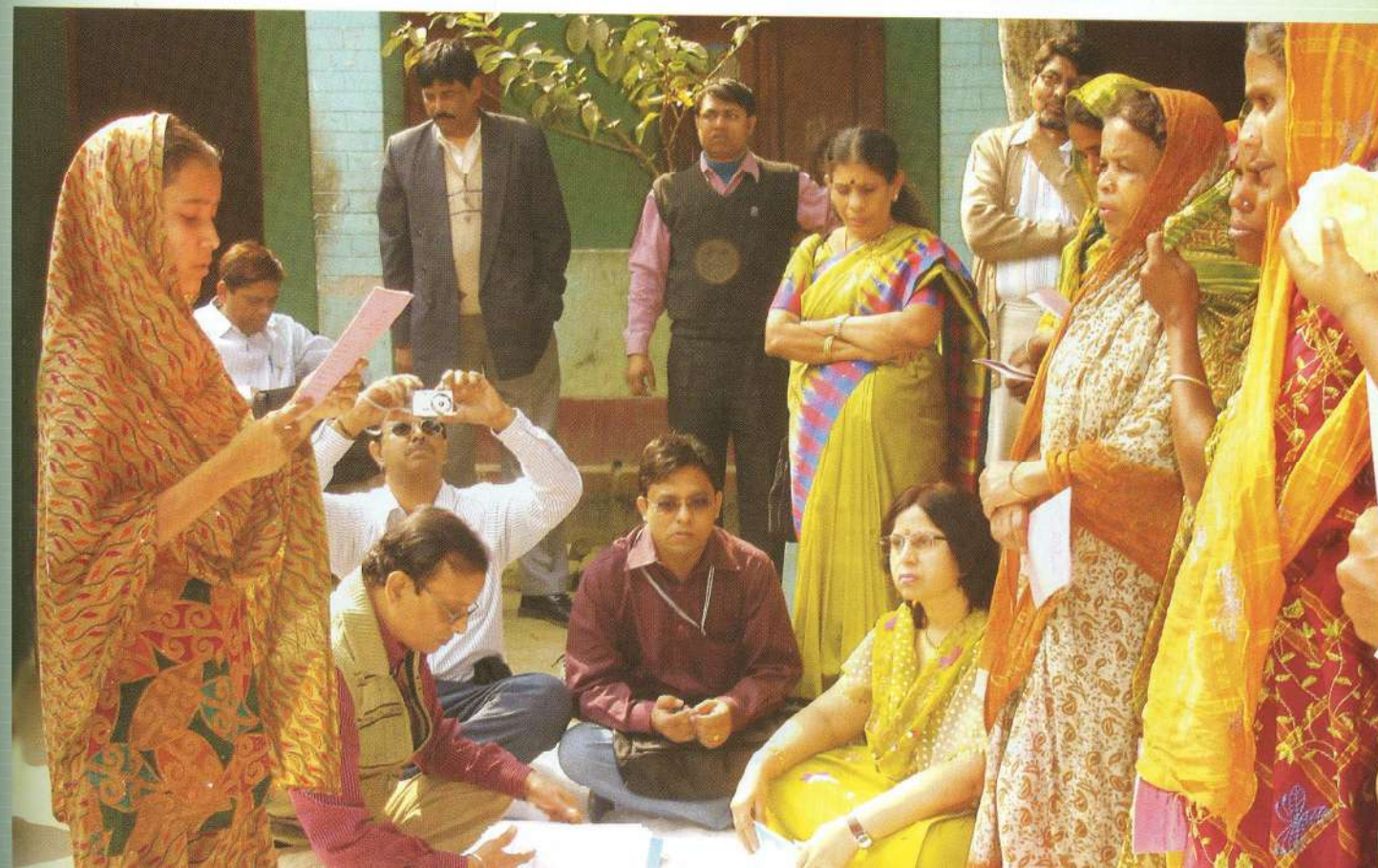
- Geoinformatics System in Natural Resources Management
- Microfinance for the Rural Poor
- Rural Technologies for Inclusive Rural Growth
- Information and Communication Technology Applications for Rural Development
- Innovative and Best Practices in ICT and GIS Application in Rural Development in India
- Income Generation for Women in Rural Areas

Exposure Visits

- Bangladesh Officials to Nepal
- Indian officials to Bangladesh

Focused Areas

- Participatory planning, evaluation, monitoring and programme implementation
- Geoinformatics
- Developing capacity building of institution
- Poverty alleviation
- Integrated rural development
- Empowerment
- Business development service
- Sustainable agriculture
- Community forest development
- Watershed development
- Land conservation system
- Climate change
- Developing and application of ICT in rural area
- Decentralised rural good governance



Training Division

Integrated Rural Development through holistic approach is the commitment of CIRDAP. The goal is to enrich the quality of life of the poor through various interventions. Since portfolio of Rural Development intervention has multiplied substantially in member countries, hence training requirements have also increased. To fulfil this mission, Training Division has taken initiative to build the capacity of critical functionaries on various facets of rural development and allied sectors. In view of this, Training Division has enlarged its canvass to cover new emerging areas to cater services to the member countries.

On the basis of Training Need Assessment, Training Division has included new areas like Information Communication Technology (ICT), Geo-Informatics System (GIS), Rural Livelihoods, Decentralised Good Governance, Delivery of Services, etc. A process methodology for mapping training modules was adopted to annual upgradation of training programmes so as to make it more relevant, useful and practical. Available innovative and best practices were captured from the member countries to share this knowledge among them. Thus, Training Division had made strides and taken up new initiatives and conducted several thematic training programmes during this year.

Regional Programmes

As a good will gesture of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, under regional cooperation has provided grant in aid programmes to CIRDAP and sponsored five regional programmes on various themes for the benefit of member countries. These programmes are also organised as an initiative to support the capacity-building efforts of Asian regional through knowledge dissemination, sharing of expertise/experiences of India with member countries for networking, future collaboration in rural development efforts and to create better institutional and government linkages in the region to fulfil the mandate for poverty reduction and enhance regional cooperation. In addition, CIRDAP in collaboration with the Non-Aligned Movement for South South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) has also conducted a programme focusing empowerment of women through Business Development Service (BDS).

Besides, financial institutions of India has entrusted CIRDAP to organise training-cum-exposure visits on microfinance. Further, a new dimension was added to the Training Division by USAID-IPAC that has given responsibility to organise exposure visit on protected area development.

ICT Applications for RD and Geoinformatic System in NRM



ICT participants during a field visit

Regional training programmes of 'Information and Communication Technology Applications for Rural Development' and 'Geoinformatic Applications in Natural Resources Management' were held on 16-25 March 2009 and 30 March to 08 April 2009, respectively.

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 these programmes at NIRD.



In the recent past in India and some other Asian countries, Geographic Information System (GIS) has emerged as an effective tool in designing rural development programmes, with focus on sustainable poverty reduction and environmental conservation. The recent trend is to move towards convergence of Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System, Global Positioning System, and related communication technologies to better manage the natural resources and the environment for achieving economic and social goals.

CIRDAP has been sharing the rich experience of India to its member partners in Asia and the Pacific. Keeping these in view, both programmes were intended to examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in rural development, natural resources management and environment; review current use of the ICT and GIS in rural development; and identify the potential areas where the ICT/GIS related applications can play an effective role.

The training programme has wide coverage that includes, geoinformatic applications in natural resources management, various tools and techniques in planning for disaster management, the digital image processing, remote sensing applications, etc. All important software packages relating to GIS and information technology available in India were discussed, and participants were taken to various specialised institutions and organisations dealing with the subject.

A total of 12 senior officers from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the ICT programme, and 20 participants and experts with representation from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated in Geoinformatic programme.

As a part of the ICT programme, the participants were taken to Bangalore for three-day field visit. They had discussion on Bhoomi Project dealing with Land Records System and its salient features. Later, the participants visited K R Pura (East Taluk) where they were shown the operational aspects also, its maintenance and how it has impacted the villagers.

The participants also visited Narayana Hrudayalaya, where they were given an overview of the concept of tele-medicine and associated benefits and demonstrated a live presentation.



Microfinance for the Rural Poor

International Training Course on 'Microfinance for the Rural Poor' was organised in CIRDAP, Dhaka Bangladesh on 10-19 May 2009. It was one of the NIRD-CIRDAP Collaborative programmes and it was sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

This programme was attended by 15 participants from 13 countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The participants were senior government functionaries dealing with microfinance in their respective countries.

Microfinance has emerged as an important strategy to alleviate poverty and empower the poor. Bangladesh is the hub of microfinance, and therefore, persons responsible for planning and implementation rural development programmes prefers to get exposed to the functioning of microfinance in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the laboratory of microfinance and different varieties of institutions are available, and different packages of assistance and help are given to the rural poor. Keeping this in view an international training programme was organised to learn operations of microfinance and credit management strategies.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. In his inaugural address, DG, CIRDAP mentioned about the development of microfinance sector, microfinance, in the context of Bangladesh and the situation of financial institutions currently implementing in Bangladesh.

The participants had classroom discussions on various aspects of microfinance from experts and representatives of microfinance institutions. They were taken to Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to see the functioning of microfinance institutions in the field and how the rural poor are being organised and how these groups benefit by microfinance. The participants during the field visit had discussion with MFIs and also the clientele groups to ascertain their view options and the impact of microcredit in their life.

The objectives of the programme were:

- The strategy and approaches of some successful poverty alleviation programmes in targeting the rural poor at the grassroots level;
- The process involved in identification and organising rural poor/beneficiaries mainly through group dynamics, mobilising local resources, starting savings and credit programme with participatory role of various stakeholders/partners in microfinance and other agencies/collaborating partners;

- The appraisal and monitoring mechanism at: (a) group level, (b) centre level, and (c) MFI level by observing centre meetings of MFIs which serve as cost-effective and efficient focal/contact point between beneficiaries and the MFIs, and (d) government level;
- The extent and type of capacity building which can ensure successful implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes.

Key learnings of the participants

1. Encouraging women to come up with their home, get credit, and start or invest in their business;
2. Giving opportunity to the people to generate and increase income - eventually to have a better life;
3. Educating women to become partner in generating family income;
4. Expanding and sustains family IGP or enterprise;
5. Generating savings for their future - for financing additional IGPs, emergency, family basic needs (education, housing, etc.);
6. Upgrading social status of borrowers (beggar to earner, housewife to earning wife, husband to economic partner);
7. Generating self and household employment; and
8. Stabilising family.

Valedictory session

The valedictory address was delivered by Mr. B.K. Sinha, IAS, Director General, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India while explaining various data and out of his practical observation on microcredit operations in the various countries of the world. He mentioned that microcredit has lot of potential impact on poverty alleviation.

During Valedictory Session, the participants expressed that the course was invaluable to them, and it provided them with opportunity to learn many things and clarify misgivings about the microfinance, gain deep insights into the subject. They felt that the learning experiences will be transferred into action in their work place, and they were hopeful that implementation in their respective countries will definitely be improved. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP, Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP and Dr. P. Purushotham, Professor and Head, Centre for Self-Employment and Rural Enterprises (CSERE), NIRD, spoke and expressed satisfaction for successfully completion of an important training programme



Participants with Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate, at a Grameen Bank project site

Rural Technologies for Inclusive Rural Growth

NIRD-CIRDAP Collaborative Regional Training Programme on 'Rural Technologies for Inclusive Rural Growth' was organised from 25 May to 3 June 2009 at NIRD, Hyderabad, India.

This programme was attended by 11 participants from nine countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In the inaugural session Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, mentioned that rural technology should be simple, suitable, stable and socially acceptable and sustainable, and there is a need for such type of training programme in order to make people aware about the variety of technologies available in different countries. This will provide an opportunity to learn about appropriate rural technologies, and it can be implemented in their respective countries.

Mr. B.K. Sinha, IAS, Director General, NIRD, Hyderabad, India, spoke on the occasion, and he mentioned that the institute has started Te-Bank where all the technologies will be positioned so that one can know about it and get demonstration of such technologies. This will enable them to choose a technology which can be implemented in their respective areas.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. T. Karunakaran, Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industries (MGIRI), Wardha. He mentioned that rural technologies are important in the context of emerging challenges and crisis in the development scenario.

The programme had various academic inputs from experts drawn from renowned institutions engaged in rural technologies. There were discussions on certain organisations which have specialisation and developed certain technologies. The organisations like ARTI which has developed various technologies were discussed. The participants were also taken to Rural



Learning from the field visit

Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD, where different technologies and cost-effective building structures are available. The RTP provides demonstrational effect of the appropriate rural technologies as skill development. The RTP has exclusive solar energy unit where illiterate women have been trained in this field, and they have become technicians and provide services in the rural areas.

Field visits

As a part of curriculum, the participants were taken for study visit to Bangalore and Mysore, where they have visited various institutions and discussed with the scientists of Department of Renewable Energy and Satellite Technology. They have also visited the Agricultural University of Science in Bangalore, and they had discussions with the farmers engaged in floriculture, banana cultivation, fish culture, coconut cultivation, and how these farmers are applying technology to increase production. They also got exposed to innovative ideas of extracting oil from jetropa and pangamia seed, used as mixed fuel in diesel to improve the mileage capacity of vehicles. The participants also visited ICRISAT to familiar with agri-business incubator centre.

Valedictory session

Mr. B.K. Sinha, IAS, Director General, NIRD, delivered the Valedictory Address and he discussed about Technology Bank - An Integrated Approach to Dynamic Technology Flow to Rural Sector. He mentioned that technology is a driving force, and it has rescued from distress in the agricultural sector, etc. He emphasised that there is a need for revival of traditional technology which are available in large number. These traditional technologies are sustainable and rooted in the cultural system unmapped, and these technologies are dying out. Therefore there is a need for validation and refinement of these traditional technologies, and it should be integrated with the technology movement which is emerging across the countries.

During the Valedictory Session the participants expressed their happiness about their learning experiences about the variety of technologies which will be useful in their respective countries.

Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, thanked all participants for their cooperation and all resource persons for their valuable inputs.

Innovative and Best Practices in ICT and GIS Application in RD

Regional Study Visit-cum-Training Programme on 'Innovative and Best Practices in ICT and GIS Application in Rural Development in India' was held on 15-24 June 2009 at Hyderabad, India.

CIRDAP, in collaboration with NIRD, with financial support from The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, organised the regional training programme during 15-24 June 2009 at NIRD.

The programme was organised to gain experiences of the past practices and visit various institutions in India which are engaged in developing and applying software technology in the developmental programme. The focus of the programme was more on gaining practical orientation and experiences than much discussion in classroom mode with the specific objectives, like to study the ICT and geo-informatics, best practices, pilot projects and programmes in India, and to identify the potential areas where the ICT and GIS applications can play a key role in CMCs, from India's experiences.

The programme was attended by 16 persons from 12 countries, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The programme has variety of technological inputs including basic concepts, tools and techniques of GIS, remote sensing, application of global positioning system, agro-climatic planning and information bank, e-governance, etc.

The participants were taken to Rajasthan as a study visit, where they had the opportunity to see the application of remote sensing at both state level and village level. They also visited Central Arid Zone Research Institute at Jodhpur, and they got exposure about the technologies developed for sustainable livelihood in arid zone region. The discussion was covered on technological development in the field of agriculture, forestry, sand dunes stabilisation, rain water management, livestock management, solar energy, etc. They also visited Indian Space Research Institute, National Institute of Science and Technology, New Delhi and Wadia Institute of Himalayan, Dehradun, forest survey of India, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, respectively.

The valedictory session of the programme was organised at New Delhi, and the valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. The course was coordinated by Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, and Dr. V. Madhava Rao, Dr. Kesava Rao, Dr. R.R. Hermon and Mr. Solanki from NIRD. At the valedictory session, participants expressed their happiness by gaining reach experiences of visiting variety of specialised institutions engaged in various technologies, development of various technologies and packages and its application in various fields. The participants felt that this will help them to organise the available technologies in their respective countries as also the new learning will be emulated in their context.



The participants

Income Generation for Women in Rural Areas

NAM-CSSTC and CIRDAP collaborative training workshop on 'Income Generation for Women in Rural Areas through Business Development Services (BDS)' was organised from 09 to 16 December 2009 at Bali, Indonesia.

This training workshop was attended by 15 participants from nine countries, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The objective of the training workshop was to discuss among SME policymakers and practitioners concerning BDS as a strategic alternative to support local economic development involving women in Rural areas. In the inaugural session Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, mentioned that rural technology should be simple and socially acceptable and sustainable. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about appropriate rural technologies, and the knowledge can be implemented in the respective countries of the participants.

The programme covered relevant field activities of BDS, especially on women group like Women Peasantry Group of Sri Rejeki in Bedugul and Multi-purpose Cooperative of 'Tunas Sari Sedana' in Gianyar. As this workshop focused on the experiences, context and practical aspects of CMCs, country papers presented by the participants highlighted their specific background in the context of community empowerment. The participants shared experience and had discussions on finding solution mostly on the topics like women's role, supporting, capacity building, production assistant, management, sustainable, monitoring and evaluation of the community empowerment programmes which are being involved in their countries.

The programme was designed to evaluate both the participant's satisfaction and expectation of institution. These results showed that Business Development Services- market development approach was getting highest score among all topics delivered in the programme. Evaluation result by NAM-CSSTC identified that the participants are satisfied with the course as their expectations are almost perfectly met.



Exposure Visits

Bangladesh Officials Go to Nepal

A study tour was arranged for the officials from Government of Bangladesh at participatory Management sites in protected areas of Nepal from 23 to 29 May 2009.

To learn the lessons of successful Community forestry programmes in Nepal for their plausible replication in forest and fisheries sectors in Bangladesh, CIRDAP in collaboration with Protected Area Management Project (IPAC) of US AID, organised the study tour programme. It was attended by 11 Senior Officials of Government of Bangladesh.

The objectives of the study were:

- To observe and study the co-management practices of protected areas of forests and water land in Nepal.
- To understand the strategies and approaches of successful projects and programmes relating to forest, water land and environment.
- To interact with the institutions concerned, decision-makers and with local stakeholders.
- Field visits for experiential learning, first-hand impacts and lessons from successes/failures.

The study programme was designed to cover the presentations and background information through various presentations arranged by the selected ministries and departments in Kathmandu and their field offices in Pokhara. This was followed by field visits to the selected projects in Kathmandu and Pokhara. The visit covered forests protected areas, community forest area, many national parks and wildlife zone and water shed management programme.

The following departments were covered during the study visit programme:

- Department of Forest Research and Survey
- Department of Soil and Watershed Management
- Department of Irrigation
- Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
- Forests Department
- Irrigation Department
- Fisheries Research Institute
- District Development Committee
- District Administrative Officer
- District Soil Conservation Office
- ICIMOD



A field visit programme

Observation and learning

The delegates observed the detail formation of forest protected areas, current forest conservation and maintaining infrastructure like national parks, wildlife reserves, conservation areas and hunting reserve areas, community wetland management, etc. Also they learned existing rule and regulations like the Forestry Master Plan & National Conservation Strategy, National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act and Buffer Zone Management Regulations.

The delegates learnt lessons and stated that diverse socio-economic-culture condition in Bangladesh, a tailor-made management would provide one of the best options and the capacity building should involve the technical, management and legal entity needs for becoming better Bangladesh.

Indian Officials Visit Bangladesh

Under the Training-cum-Exposure Visit programme, two batches of Indian officials visited Bangladesh on 06-13 February 2009 (Batch-I) and 13-20 February 2009 (Batch-II).

The programmes of two batches were held for giving opportunities to bankers, regional rural banks, NABARD, NGOs etc. to observe microfinance mechanism of Bangladesh through field visits. Both the programmes were attended by 34 participants from different states of India.

Both the programmes were inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. Certificate-awarding ceremony of the first programme was chaired by DG CIRDAP, and in the second programme, Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), High Commission of India in Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest and gave away certificates to the delegates.



The officials had classroom sessions where professionals from CIRDAP, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Grameen Bank, and Association for Social Development (ASA), BRAC, BURO Bangladesh and Swanirvar Bangladesh (Self-reliant Bangladesh), briefed the delegates about the microcredit operation in Bangladesh.

To sharpen the knowledge of the participants, field visits were organised to Grameen Bank, ASA, Swanirvar Bangladesh and BRAC beneficiary sites, where the delegates had interaction with the clientele of the microcredit institutions. They visited different villages to see how the village level women entrepreneurs utilise their credit facilities to reduce their poverty. The participants have interacted with branch offices and women groups in selected villages near Tangail and Bogra.

At the end, both the programmes had valedictory sessions where Director General, CIRDAP chaired and gave away certificates to the delegates. In both programmes the delegates appreciated the activities of MFIs in Bangladesh. They thanked DG and Training Division for arranging effective programmes, field visits and interactions.

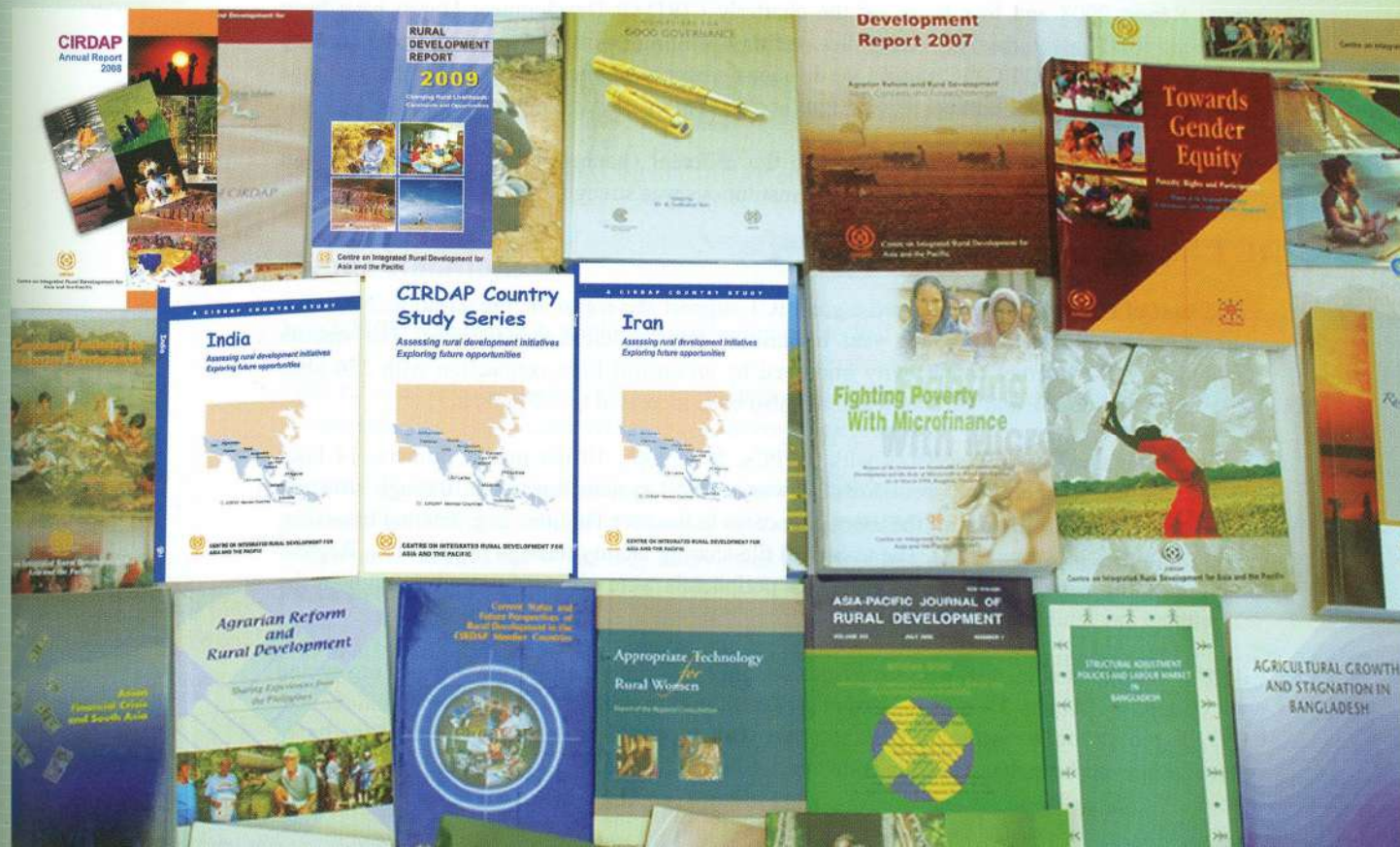


Information and Communication

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

Focused Areas

- Publications exploring new avenues of research knowledge and practical application
- Journal spreading popularity to African region
- Disseminating the knowledge
- Smooth functioning of ICT services
- Uploading full text of CIRDAP publications
- Website continuing to get linked
- Folder containing articles on climate change and global warming
- Publication exchange programme expanding
- Reference section updated
- Continent-wise folders of rural development materials
- Documentation of Policy Dialogue on success story of Malaysia
- Photographic covering of all major events
- Selected photographs posted on the website
- Strengthening public relations to ensure visibility of the Centre
- TV channels airing special programmes on CIRDAP



Information and Communication Division

During the year 2009, Information and Communication Division (ICD) dealt with its activities under the following manner:

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

ICD integrated, consolidated and strengthened the year-round activities in a very participatory way. With knowledge and expertise, the division maintained its momentum in knowledge generation, management and dissemination.

Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

In 2009, ICD made a good effort in knowledge generation, management and dissemination. CIRDAP publications, particularly CIRDAP study series, focused on new avenues of research knowledge and practical application. The Country Study Series reviewed the past policies and programmes and identified present policy level issues on rural development and poverty alleviation in the CIRDAP member countries.

Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) maintained its good reputation during the year. Full text and/or abstracts of APJORD articles can be downloaded from several international websites. The journal spread its popularity to the African region. The researchers from Africa have been observed interested to get their articles published in this journal.

Annual Report 2008 and four issues of the quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest have been published. ICD also carried out other editing/printing works that included working papers/materials for TC/EC/GC meetings, divisional reports, publications etc. The publications were improved with better editing, new designs and formatting on par with international standard.

The division disseminated all the products to the different channels concerned and the target groups. Exchange of publications with reputed institutions was strengthened.

ICT Support and Services

The IT unit of ICD efficiently rendered a good ICT support service to the organisation. No major interruptions were there during the year because of their efficient management. The smooth functioning of the internet connectivity improved by an optical fibre connection with 256 kbps speed, has been noticed, and the bandwidth has also been increased to 1.24 mbps.

The unit maintained its ICT services with 35 PCs, 5 Laptops, 10 dot matrix printers, 14 laser printers and one scanner. The Local Area Network (LAN) system functioned through structure cabling with 35 nodes. Almost all the users got access to the core facilities (e.g. internet browsing, e-mail, web mail, e-learning etc.). The users had file-sharing facility through the network. Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals were also maintained throughout the year without any hindrance.

CIRDAP has operated its web-based activities under two domains namely www.cirdap.org.sg and www.cirdap.org. About 35 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professionals are being maintained. CIRDAP run its online setup in collaboration with Google and Accesstel (BD) Ltd. Its e-commerce site has been maintained in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

CIRDAP Website

A dynamic and pro-active CIRDAP Website increased its popularity during the year. It continued to get linked to the important websites and spread its services to the policymakers, academics, and researchers. ICD also uploaded all recent CIRDAP publications on the website. Many visitors to the website regularly download some of those. The publications were made available on the website in PDF format. The database on 'APJORD Abstracts' has been maintained.

Library Services

To make Aziz-ul Haq Library vibrant, new avenues were explored. In 2009 a separate folder was made for articles on 'Climate Change and Global Warning', and regularly the latest articles were being collected.

The following activities were also carried out during the year:

The existing online services such as CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service (CONCS) and free Electronic Periodicals were 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 CMCs on the website. The reference section was updated to include all CIRDAP publications. 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.

Audio-Visual Services

A video documentation of the CIRDAP policy dialogue on Success Story of Malaysia held in Langkawi, Malaysia was prepared. The final version will be available in early next year.

All major events in CIRDAP were photographed by professional photographers. Photographs of trainings / visits / meetings within and outside of Bangladesh were well documented. Some selected photographs were posted on CIRDAP website.

Multi-media services were provided to CIRDAP events. Records and preservation of audio-visuals were maintained.

Public Relations

In 2009 ICD maintained its public relations programmes and ensured visibility of the Centre.

Press releases on important events were regularly sent to the mass media. All major newspapers in Bangladesh, both English and Bangla have covered these events.

Almost all local TV channels and some radio stations gave wide coverage of CIRDAP programmes. National Television Channel of Bangladesh (BTV) and ATN Bangla aired special programmes on CIRDAP where they interviewed the Director General and other senior officials of the Centre.

ICD maintained a good rapport with the media throughout the year. Key media contacts were invited to the special events.

Recent CIRDAP Publications

- CIRDAP Country Study Series (13 Publications), CIRDAP 2009.
- Rural Development Report 2009. Study Series No. 217. CIRDAP 2009.
- 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.
- Efficacy of Alternative Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Study Series No. 12. CIRDAP 2001.
- Rural Urban Migration and Poverty: The Case for Reverse Migration in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Study Series No. 10. CIRDAP 2001.
- Interlinkages of Agricultural Diversification in Bangladesh. MAP Focus Series No. 9. CIRDAP 2001.
- Towards Empowering Women: Microcredit and Social Mobilization. Action Research Series No. 27. CIRDAP 2001.
- Government-NGO Collaboration for Poverty Alleviation. Study Series No. 191. CIRDAP 2000.
- Savings and Farm Investment in Bangladesh: An Analysis of Rural Households. MAP Focus Study Series No. 11. CIRDAP 2000.
- Fighting Poverty with Microfinance. Action Research Series No. 26. CIRDAP 2000.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XIX, No. 2. December 2009.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XIX, No. 1. July 2009.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVIII, No. 2. December 2008.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVIII, No. 1. July 2008.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVII, No. 2. December 2007.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVII, No. 1. July 2007.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVI, No. 2. December 2006.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XVI, No. 1. July 2006.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 2. December 2005.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XV, No. 1. July 2005.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XIV, No. 2. December 2004.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XIV, No. 1. July 2004.

Administration and Finance

- Activities Performed
- Organisational Structure
- Audit of the Accounts



Administration

The main activities of the Administration and Finance Division are to provide support services to the Office of Director General and all Programme Divisions. The services include, among others, 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 relating to the administration and financial matters, developing/managing/utilising personnel, tenure/increment of the staff-members, procurement, maintenance of office premises/properties/campus & arrangement of residential accommodation for professional staff-members, protocol duties, management of auditorium/conference rooms/cafeteria, liaison with ministries of Foreign Affairs, LGRD & Co-operatives, Housing & Public Works and concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities, construction and renovation work of CIRDAP Complex.

The Division recommends and administers financial policies/procedure, manages financial affairs including arranging interim and final audit work of the Centre and of the projects of Programme Divisions and prepares Programme of Works and Budget (PWB) etc.

Activities Performed

Construction of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (ICC): CIRDAP regularly conducts seminars/ conferences/ workshops/ exposure visits/ training programmes etc. where delegates from different CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) participate. Moreover, there is no medium size conference centre of international standard in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In this background, in the Sixteenth CIRDAP Governing Council Meeting (GC-16) held during 2007, it was presented by the Honourable Advisor for LGRD and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh (GoB), that GoB approved the construction of a six-storey CIRDAP International Conference Centre in CIRDAP HQs.

Public Works Department (PWD) was entrusted to execute the construction work of ICC by Ministry of LGRD & Co-operatives. The construction work of ICC started in 2007. During 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial year, Government of Bangladesh allocated an amount of Tk.999.45 lakh (US\$1.4 million). Later on the PWD has submitted a revised estimate for allocation of an additional amount of Tk.835.42 lakh (US\$1.2 million) because of increase in floor area, to make entire wall of Auditorium with RCC, due to some changes in architectural design, inclusion of some new items in the estimate and having machineries, fittings, furniture and other materials of international standard.

Government of Bangladesh released an amount of Tk.451.54 lakh during financial year 2008-09 which has already been spent by Public Works Department. Now an amount of Tk. 459.20 lakh only (about US\$.7 million) is required to complete the work of CIRDAP International Conference Centre up to 2nd floor. PWD submitted an estimate of Tk.459.20 lakh to the Ministry of LGRD & Co-operatives to complete the remaining works of the CIRDAP ICC. Ministry of LGRD&C wrote to Ministry of Finance without any result. Director General, CIRDAP requested all the CMCs for providing contribution and facilities in furnishing and decorating the Conference Centre. India has agreed to setting up an ICT and data centre in the Conference Centre (2nd floor). Pakistan and Malaysia has shown interest in decoration of ICC.

Selection/Recruitment Committee Meeting: In order to recruit Deputy Director General, Director (Research), Programme Officer (Research) and Programme Officer (Training), a total of 10 meetings were organised. Besides, providing the logistic and administrative support, working papers and draft minutes for the above meetings were also prepared.

Appointment: During 2009, two professional staff-members - Director (Training) and Director (PPD) and one Driver were recruited Besides, two short-term staff-members - one Supervisor (Auditorium) and one Driver were also recruited as temporary basis.

Personnel Advisory Committee: The Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) of CIRDAP advises the Director General regarding all appointments, promotion, renewal of tenure, increment etc. of the staff-members and other HR related matters. During 2009, 15 PAC meetings were convened.

Purchase and Maintenance Committee: A total of 155 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2009. The Purchase and Maintenance Committee of CIRDAP considers the cost, quality, necessity etc. regarding any purchase/maintenance of property/supply/equipment etc. of the Centre and provides impartial and fair suggestion/recommendation/comment in order to take decision by the Management.

Protocol Support: Administration provided required protocol support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA for the travellers, attending airport to receive and see-off the travellers, arranging accommodation, lunch, dinner, transport etc, contacting embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for the visas of the visitos to organise all the CIRDAP programmes during 2009. Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staffs of CIRDAP in getting renewal of their passport/visa, arrangement for accommodation along with required maintenance, renewal of agreements with the land lord etc.

Foundation Day Programme: 30th Founding Anniversary Day of the Centre was marked on 6 July in the campus. On this occasion, a reception followed by a dinner was organised in CIRDAP Auditorium where Secretaries of Government of Bangladesh, other government high officials, researchers, academicians, RD practitioners, VIPs/ elites of the societies and former CIRDAP staff-members attended the programme.

Renovation/Maintenance Work: Due to Second Ministerial Meeting, Public Works Department made a massive renovation and maintenance work in the campus.

Legal Matters: Arranging liaison with the lawyers, preparing papers containing necessary information for the lawyers in connection with legal matters of CIRDAP continued.

Transportation: Support to the transportation services was given during the year. Necessary repairing, maintenance, denting, painting and regular servicing work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP from the renowned motor workshop of the city, namely, Navana Toyota Service Centre, were maintained.

Separation: Two staff-members left CIRDAP during 2009. They were:

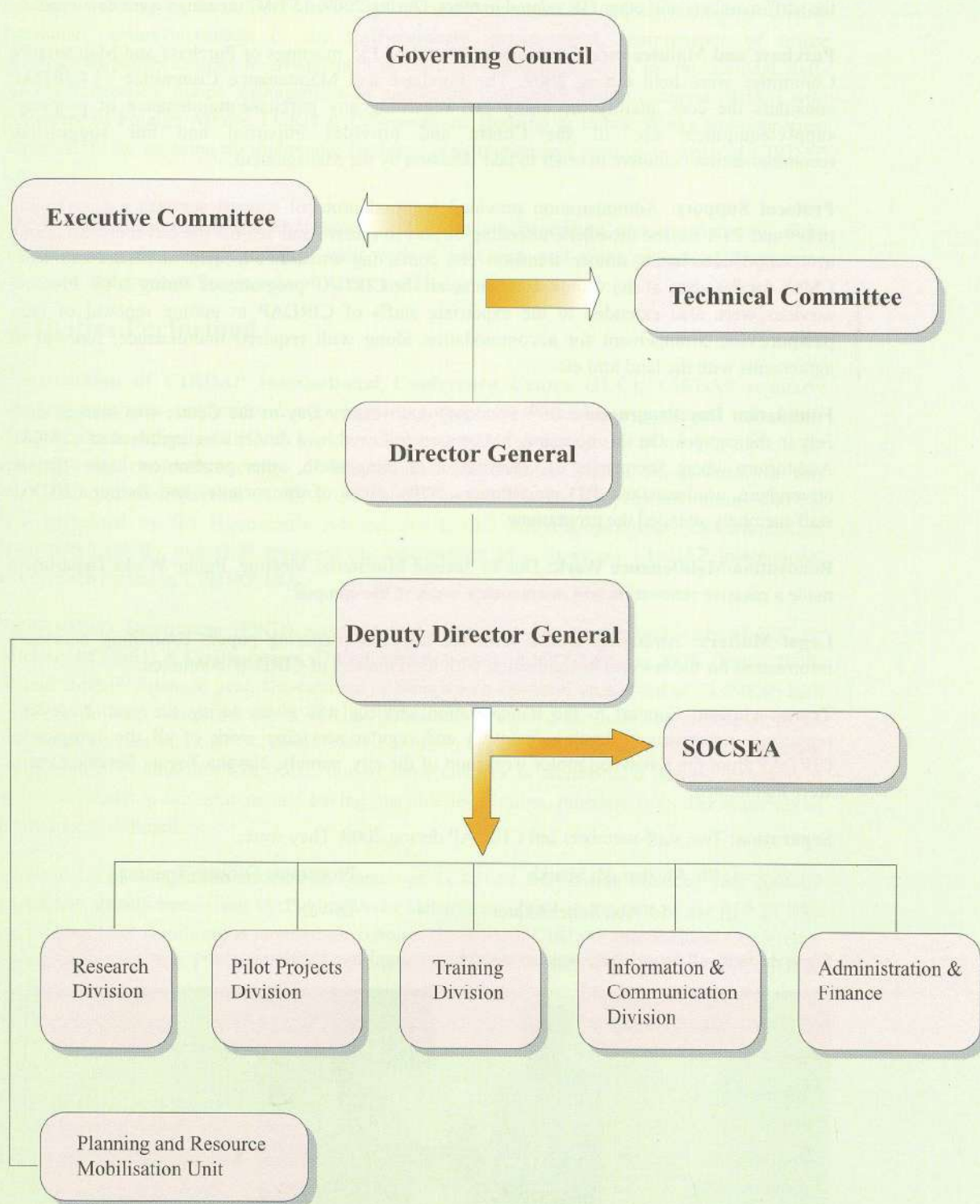
- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| i) Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh | - | Programme Officer (Training) |
| ii) Mr. Md. Abu Sohel Akhter | - | Driver |

Separate farewell programme was arranged to say good-bye to them.



Farewell to Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh

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).

Income & Expenditure of General Fund during 2008 were US\$1,188,788.30 and US\$639,916.19 respectively. Income & Expenditure of Trust Fund during 2008 were US\$623,490.14 and US\$479,365.07 respectively.

Audit of the Accounts

The Interim accounts of the Centre for the year 2008 were audited by Mr. Kyaw Win, Director, Office of the Auditor General, Union of Myanmar, from 08 June to 18 June 2008. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Report and the financial statements for the year 2008 have been furnished below:

AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP FOR THE INTERIM YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008 OF THE BIENNIUM YEAR 2008-2009

I have examined the financial statements of CIRDAP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) for the interim year ended 31ST December 2008 of the biennium year 2008-2009 and related statements. I have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required.

I conducted my audit on generally accepted auditing standards and CIRDAP's financial regulation. The audit is designed to provide reasonable assurance that CIRDAP's financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatements. The audit includes examining the records, on a test basis and ensuring adequate disclosures in the financial statements.

I certify as a result of the audit, that, in my opinion, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, subject to the auditor's observations attached herewith.



KYAW WIN

Director

Office of the Auditor General


Union of Myanmar

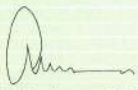
Dhaka, 18th June 2009


CIRDAP
Consolidated Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)
Final Accounts as on December 31, 2008

Account Code	Assets	2006-2007 Biennium in US\$	Notes	2008
40100	Cash in Hand	7,164.87	1	956.95
40200	Cash in Banks	394,604.96	1	306,266.38
40300	Investment in Banks	495,400.18	1	506,391.18
40000	Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks	897,170.01		813,614.51
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	158,324.55	2	300,264.96
40402	Advance to Staff	172,585.02	4	27,493.51
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	2,515.97	5	2,351.89
40404	Other Accounts Receivables	38.28		-
40000	Subtotal of Receivables	333,463.82		330,110.36
080800	Fixed Assets -General Fund	13,584.78	3	10,969.86
	Asset - auditorium/confe. income charged to DRF	30,386.46	3	24,375.42
	Asset purchased from project account (Trust Fund)	24,209.47	3	19,377.21
	Asset purchased from DRF - as per ledger 2007	3,654.38	3	2,597.59
80000	Subtotal of Fixed Assets	71,835.09		57,320.08
Total Assets		1,302,468.92		1,201,044.95
Liabilities and Net Assets				
10101	Accrued Salary and allowances	-		-
10102	Other Accounts Payable	7,542.23	6	12,098.25
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	14.10		-
Sub Total of Total Liabilities		7,556.33		12,098.25
Net Assets				
20100	General Fund (GF)	411,159.56		548,872.11
80000	Fixed Assets			
Subtotal of General Fund		411,159.56		548,872.11
020200	Trust Fund (TF)	454,037.42		144,125.07
020300	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317.00		130,317.00
020400	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	280,964.91		285,361.31
020500	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	18,433.70		16,069.51
020600	Reg. Co-Op Fund	-		64,201.70
Subtotal of Other Funds		883,753.03		640,074.59
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		1,302,468.92		1,201,044.95

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


 Finance Officer
 Dhaka, December 31, 2008


 Head of Admin. and Finance
 Dhaka, December 31, 2008


 Director General
 Dhaka, December 31, 2008


 KYAW WIN
 Director
 Office of the Auditor General, Myanmar


CIRDAP
General Fund (GF) Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the year ended December 31, 2008

Account Code	Income	2006-2007 Biennium in US\$	2008 Calendar Year in US\$
20100	Openin Balance of Fund	639,473.07	411,159.56
	Less : Assets retained per contra as on 31 December 2005		
	Less : Amount transferred to DRF	375,577.41	
		263,895.66	
	Less : Advance from WCF		
	Advance from DRF		
		263,895.66	411,159.56
20300	Temporary Loan from WCF		
	Less : Refund during 2004		
20400	Temporary Loan from DRF		
	Less : Refund during 2007	(50,000.00)	
40401	Waiver of CMC Cont. Receivable (For Afghanistan from 1996-2000)		
70101	CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	1,179,977.00	746,679.40
70200	Miscellaneous Income	99,923.15	30,949.34
	Total Income	1,493,795.81	1,188,788.30
	Expenditure		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	284,229.87	164,324.17
80102	General Staff Salary	276,303.36	154,674.67
80104	General Staff Overtime	4,798.76	2718.03
		565,331.99	321,716.87
80200	Common Staff Cost	94,457.57	62,341.38
80300	Official Travels	136,087.35	85,978.91
80400	External Audit	6,200.00	3,536.21
80600	General Operating Expenses	263,971.23	155,281.69
80700	Supplies and Materials	16,588.11	11,061.13
80800	Acquisition of Assets		
	Total Expenses	1,082,636.25	639,916.19
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	411,159.56	548,872.11

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


Finance Officer


Dhaka, December 31, 2008


Head of Admin. and Finance

Dhaka, December 31, 2008


Director General

Dhaka, December 31, 2008



KYAW WIN
Director


Office of the Auditor General, Myanmar


CIRDAP
Trust Fund (TF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Biennium ended December 31, 2008

Account Code	Income	2006-2007 Biennium in US\$	2008 in US\$
20200	Opening Balance of Fund	312,293.06	454,037.42
20200	Allocation From Special Reserve Fund		
	During the Year 2006-2007	7,563.64	
	During the Year 2008	8,301.79	
		7,563.64	8,301.79
10102	Adjustment of Payables	-	-
70301	UN Agency Contribution	190,000.00	-
70302	Country Contributions (JAPAN)	-	-
70303	Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	481,147.53	161,150.93
		671,147.53	161,150.93
	Total Income	991,004.23	623,490.14
Expenditure			
90100	Research Projects	54,335.76	146,533.25
90200	Pilot Projects	176,905.76	97.82
90300	Training Projects	311,909.94	324,432.21
90400	Doc. & Information Projects	18,024.82	8,301.79
	Adjustment : Total assets purchased	- 24,209.47	
	Total Expenses	536,966.81	479,365.07
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	454,037.42	144,125.07

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


Finance Officer
Dhaka, December 31, 2008

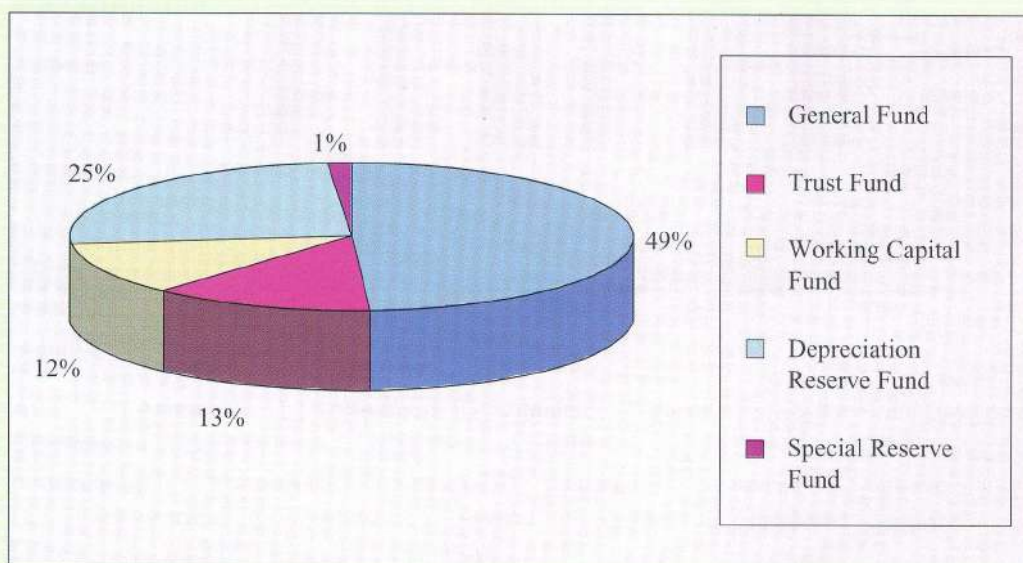

Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, December 31, 2008


Director General
Dhaka, December 31, 2008


KYAW WIN
Director
Office of the Auditor General, Myanmar

CIRDAP Fund Status As on 31st December 2008

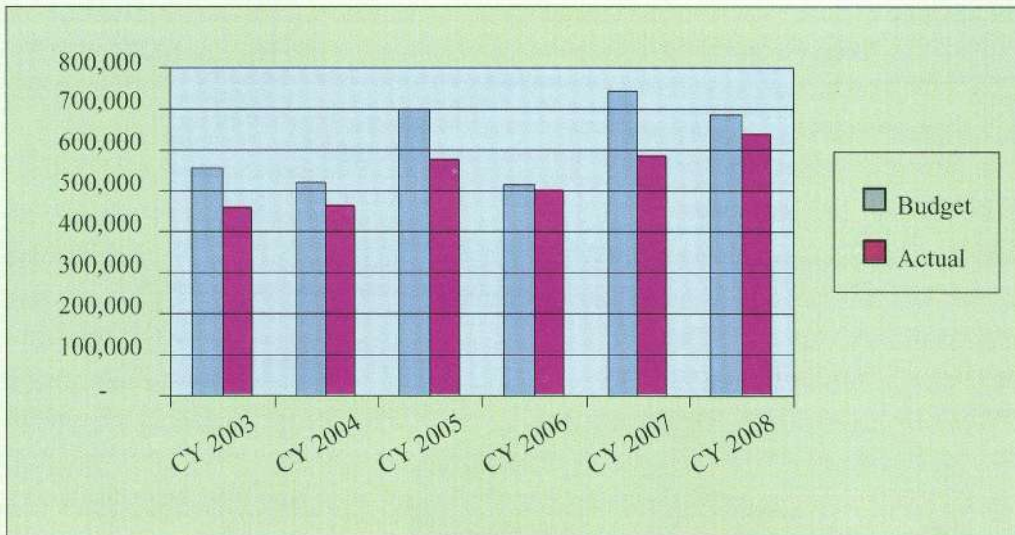
Sl #	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	548,872
2	Trust Fund	144,125
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	285,361
5	Special Reserve Fund	16,070
	Total	1,124,745



CIRDAP General Fund

Amount in US\$

	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008
Budget	556,320	518,667	702,024	513,323	742,692	685,425
Actual	456,903	460,252	575,848	498,763	583,873	640,328



Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP

The Sub-Regional Office (SOCSEA) was established in 1997 to link CIRDAP with East Asian and Pacific countries and generate resources and knowledge of rural development and poverty alleviation from successful experiences of Southeast Asian countries. It has played a key role in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) and implementing various regional programmes and projects. It has also been playing a very vital role in making liaison with CIRDAP and non-CIRDAP countries in East Asia.

During the period under review, SOCSEA implemented one Regional Programmes and four In-country Programmes.

Regional Programme

Income Generation for Women in Rural Areas

Regional Training Workshop on 'Income Generation for Women in Rural Areas through Business Development Services (BDS)' was held on 09-16 December 2009 in Bali, Indonesia as a joint programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA, Government of Indonesia and Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC).

It was the sixth programme undertaken as a follow-up of the MoU between CIRDAP and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia/NAM-CSSTC. The workshop was the first regional programme of CIRDAP/SOCSEA convened in Indonesia in the year 2009. The participants attending the training represented all CMCs.

At its 1995 Annual Meeting in Budapest, the Committee of Donor Agencies for Small Enterprise Development decided to focus on BDS for small enterprises, with the objective of identifying and documenting best practices in this area. A BDS Working Group was formed, and Preliminary Guidelines were drafted and published in January 1998. Various agencies played active role in this process, including GTZ, ILO, SDC, and DFID.

Building on this work, a series of international and regional conferences were organised under the auspices of the Donor Committee. Again, many member agencies played leading roles in some or all of these conferences, including the DAD, Ford Foundation, GTZ, IADB, IFC/Mekong Project Development Facility, ILO, US AID and the World Bank, while others contributed financially or supported papers and participants. The regional conferences focused on Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia; the international conference accompanied the Rio conference in March 1999. In addition, a Virtual Conference on the Performance Measurement Framework for BDS was held in May-June 1999.





Group photograph of the participants

In-country Programmes

Research on Health Empowerment of Older Woman in Rural Area

The 'Research on Health Empowerment of Older Woman in Rural Area' was initiated in March 2009 for the period of four months and completed at the end of June 2009. The Research was conducted by the Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia (SOCSEA) in collaboration with the Indonesian University of Education, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. The research was carried out at Ciwaruga Village, Bandung Regency, West Java Province, Indonesia by four researchers from School of Graduate Studies of the Indonesian University of Education i.e. Prof. Dr. H. Wahyu Karhiwikarta, Prof. Dr. Ieva B. Akbar, Dr. N. Tine. K, Dr. Beltasar Tarigan.

From the research the following findings and recommendations were identified:

- The advanced age rural woman should regularly undergoing physical exercise of PRE and SPO to improve bone density for preventing the occurrence of osteoporosis
- The policymakers should issue a policy that encourage the advanced age rural woman to do regularly physical exercise of PRE and SPO to ensure good health by ensuring proper bone density.

Training on Food Diversification of Sweet Potato

The training on Food Diversification of Sweet Potato Based Food in Enhancing Woman Welfare was held on 11-12 June 2009 in Boyolali, Central Java, Indonesia. It was organised by SOCSEA in collaboration with the Regional Government of Boyolali Regency and the Centre for Integrated Woman Empowerment Services 'Ugudi Bakti Utami (NBU)' of Central Java.

The fulfilment of main staple food need of the community rest on one carbohydrate source, that caused weaken food security and facing difficulty in ensuring its supply. Therefore it is necessary to undertake food diversification as a solution in fulfilment of the need for food as alternative towards food security. The Utilisation of local potential does not only functioning for food diversification; it is also expected to generate high economic value added in the effort for empowerment of productive economy of rural woman.

The objectives of the programme are:

- Utilisation of sweet potato as raw material for producing high economic value healthy processed food
- Empowerment of sweet potato based productive economic business group in enhancing rural woman income in Boyolali Regency.

The training was participated by 30 members of Woman Welfare Association (PKK) and Rural Woman Productive Economic Business Group of Boyolali Regency. During the training a field visit was organised to the Centre for production of healthy jelly made of papaya. The visit was meant as evaluation of the impact of the training on the Production of Candied Papaya Stalk as Food Diversification for New Business opportunity jointly organised by SOCSEA collaboration with Regional Government of Boyolali Regency and Centre for Integrated Woman Empowerment Services 'Ngudi Bakti Utami' (NBU). It was found that the training has good impact for its participants in enhancing their income. From 30 women (5 groups) participated in the training; 26 of them established a business group called 'Kub Dharma Makmur' which is functioning as a Centre for Producing Papaya Jelly using the trade mark 'RIDHO' that is being sold at a local, supermarket. After about three years in operation the Kub Dharma Makmur is able to enhance the income (additional income) of each woman member approximately Rp.300.000 equivalent to US\$30 per month.

Utilisation of Edible Tuber for Production of Healthy Noodle

Training on the 'Utilisation of Edible Tuber for Production of Healthy Noodle in Enhancing the Role of Community Empowerment Post (POSDAYA)' was held on 23-24 April 2009 in Bukateja 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 (BAPERMAS) of Purbalingga Regency. The training was attended by 76 participants representing local Centre on Integrated Women Empowerment (CIWE), members of SIDAMUXTI and SIDAMAKMUR Community Empowerment Post (POSDAYA) of Majasari Village, Staffs of BAPERMAS, Regional Office of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of Purbalingga and the General Sudirman University (UNSUD). Mr. Heru Sudjatmoko Vice Regent of Purbalingga inaugurated the training.

The role of POSDAYA covers five main areas like: institutional, health, education, entrepreneurship and environment.

Agency for Community Empowerment (Bapermas) of Purbalingga Regency agreed to organise Training on the Utilisation of Edible Tuber for Production of Healthy Noodle In collaboration with SOCSEA considering that the edible tuber (*Canna Edulis Kerr*) are abundantly available in Purbalingga particularly Majasari Village. Since time Immemorial, people in Majasari Village and the surrounding areas used to consume the edible tuber as the second food while scarcity of rice as the main staple food temporarily occurs.

The objectives of the programme are:

- Enhancing the business capital of the members
- Enhancing the production of healthy noodle made of edible tuber
- Enhancing the quantity of the production of edible tuber as raw material
- Creating job opportunities and business chances
- Enhancing the income and welfare of entrepreneurs and their families
- Conserving Local products of Majasari village.

The following outcomes were endorsed by the training:

- Enhancing the income of entrepreneurs and their families
- Utilising the local potential
- Establishing the commercial standard of home industry
- Utilising the waste of edible tuber
- Creating other kind of edible tuber based food.

Training on Prevention and Control of Livestock Disease

As a programme for enhancing community income, the Government of Indonesia since the initial stage of its National Development Programme carried out the breeding of livestock particularly sheep/goat. Under the programme the Government of Indonesia provides each community group with three-to-five sheep/goats. During 2005 the Regional Government of Kuningan Regency provided a total of 300 goats to the community groups along with teams of experts from the Bogor Agriculture University (IPB) as facilitator. To facilitate the government efforts in ensuring the maximum benefit of the sheep/goat breeding, SOCSEA in collaboration with the Regional Government of Kuningan Regency and the Bogor University of Agriculture (IPB) organised a Training on Fattening the Goat/Sheep through Selection of Appropriate and Good Quality Livestock Feed. The success of the training has tremendously enhanced the community income due to higher setting price of the sheep/goat. Subsequently it was followed with the Training on Management of Livestock Breeding Business.

In the effort to ensure greater success in livestock breeding, SOCSEA in collaboration with the Regional Government of Kuningan Regency and the Bogor University of Agriculture (IPB) organised another Training on the 'Prevention and Control of Livestock Disease' on 3-4 April 2009 in Kuningan, West Java, Indonesia. More than 30 goat farmers/breeders participated in the training. The training was conducted by experts from the Faculty of Livestock, Bogor University of Agriculture. At the time of holding this training, the total of goats has increased tremendously from 300 in 2005 to almost 1000 in 2009.

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 to 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 publishes 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 in July 2005.



Dr. S. K. Singh, India

[Ph.D. in Political Science, India]

Director, Training Division

A well-known academic, Dr Singh has been a professional Trainer and Researcher of long standing. Prior to joining CIRDAP, he was Professor and Head, NIRD, Government of India, Hyderabad and worked with International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India. His areas of interest are Rural Development, Decentralised Democratic Governance, Good Governance, Rural Local Government Systems, Service Delivery, Local Finance, Disaster Management, Family Welfare, Capacity Building, etc.

To his credit, he has published five books as sole author and three as co-author. He has edited a six volume series on Self-Governance for Tribals, a policy research studies sponsored by UNDP. He has published more than hundred research papers/articles in reputed national/international journals and national dailies. During his stay for more than two and a half decades at NIRD, India, he has conducted about 200 training programmes for national and international participants on various facets of rural development and local governance. He has participated in several national/international conferences/workshops and presented papers. Also participated in a long-term programme at the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, U.K., on Planning and Management of Rural Development Programme. He is academically associated with several national/international bodies. He has immensely contributed to strengthening local government system in India and designed National Capacity Building Framework for elected and official functionaries of Panchayati Raj and served as member of several high level national committees dealing with rural local government and rural development. He is also on the Editorial Board of several professional journals/periodicals. Dr. Singh has joined CIRDAP in February 2009.



Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Iran

[Master's in Natural Resources, Tehran University]

Director, Pilot Projects

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he was the Head of Supporting and Servicing Office for Agro-based Industries located in the rural areas, which was also the focal point of country for running a pilot project sharing with UNIDO to reduce post-harvest fruit and vegetable wastes on farm lands by training how to use drying technology. Accordingly, he had a closer cooperation with two NGOs as the executive manager of Iranian Wood and Furniture Industries Committee and the consultant of Home and Office Furniture Exporters' Union.

He had been working for about 18 years for Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, in the offices which basically were involved on rural development, especially by leading small-scale industries (SSIs) to be established in rural areas and supporting them through offering facilities. He has written many manuals of small and medium industrial projects containing feasibility studies, market research, suitable technology for rural areas, economical and financial indexes such as BEP, IRR, Production Cost, Gant Chart and so on, with a view to helping the people who are going to invest in and establish SSIs in the rural areas.

He is an expert on rural development qualified by international/national institutes and organisations such as Gulef University of Canada, APO, ECO and NIRD. He is an UNIDO qualified auditor of Industrial Clusters development projects running by CDA. He has participated in several national/international conferences and workshops and presented papers on RD and SSIs. He is a member of Supreme Council of Iranian Official Experts (SCIOA). Mr. Shahbaz has joined CIRDAP in March 2009.



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

Dr. Rahman served as a counterpart to expatriate/international advisors in several SIDA/NORAD/UNDP/JICA/EU-assisted projects devoted to rural development, poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement of the poor in Bangladesh. Before joining CIRDAP, he worked in the capacity of Project Director, in Char Livelihood Programme implemented by RDCD with financial and technical support from DFID. His areas of 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 to the field of Co-operatives and Rural Development in 1986. He received training in U.K., 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; Rural Regional Development Planning etc. Dr. Rahman has joined CIRDAP in June 2006.



Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Bangladesh

[B.A (Hons), M.A. in History, M.A. in International Relations,
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 on 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; 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 on 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, and preparing project proposals. 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 in budgeting, financial planning and reporting, ratio analysis, fund management, company law, local TAX & VAT. He has ten-year job experience in Accounts & Finance section. He worked in Asian Consumer Care, a multinational and a joint venture of Dabur International & ACI Ltd., and in PRAN-RFL Group, a large food manufacturing company in Bangladesh, as Assistant Manager (Accounts & Fund Management). He also worked as local agent of Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Bhd. (MISC). 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 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 also experience in preparing 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]
Librarian

Dr. Usharani Boruah served as a Librarian in various organisations for more than eight years. She worked as Librarian in the Indian Embassy, Moscow and Indian International School, Moscow. She worked as Librarian of the University of Development Alternative, Dhaka and also as Medical Librarian in Apollo Hospital, 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 writing, editing, proof-reading and page designing. He has edited a number of high-profile 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. M. Mohibur Rahaman : Secretary (ICD)
Mr. M. Mahbub Alam : Personnel Assistant
Mr. Md. Akram Ullah : Cashier
Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan : Secretary (Research)
Mr. Shyamal Bikash Chakma : Secretary to DG
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed : Computer Operator
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik : Clerk-Typist (Finance)
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal : Typist
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. Md. Abdur Rahman Mollah : Gardener
Mr. Shimul Barua : Driver
Mr. Kallol Barua : Driver

Temporary Staff-members

Mr. Khairul Hasan : Supervisor (Auditorium)
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. Raju Ahmed : Cook
Mr. Monir Hossain : Electrician
Ms. Parveen Begum : Cook
Mr. Biplob Kumar Dhar : Driver

The staff-members who left CIRDAP during the year 2009

- Mr. Mazhar Ali Shaikh, Pakistan
- Mr. Md. Abu Sohel Akhter, Bangladesh

Abbreviations & Acronyms

APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	GO	Government Organisation
APO	Asian Productivity Organisation	GoB	Government of Bangladesh
ASA	Association for Social Development	ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	ICC	International Conference Centre
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	ICD	Information and Communication Division
BDS	Business Development Services	ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	IDRC	International Development Research Centre
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CARD	CIRDAP Approach for Rural Development	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	INGOs	International Non-Government Organisations
CCMs	CIRDAP Contact Ministries	IRD	Integrated Rural Development
CDA	Cluster Development Agent	IT	Information Technology
CEC	CIRDAP Evaluation Committee	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
CIARPS	CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar	LAN	Local Area Network
CICC	CIRDAP International Conference Centre	LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
CLIs	CIRDAP Link Institutions	LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CONCS	CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
CP	Computer Programmer	MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
DFID	Department for International Development	NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG	Director General	NAM-CSSTC	Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation
DTP	Desk Top Publishing	NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
EC	Evaluation Committee	NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
EC	Executive Committee	NRM	Natural Resources Management
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation		
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific		
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation		
GC	Governing Council		
GDP	Gross Domestic Product		
GIS	Geographic Information System		

OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	RPOs	Rural Poor Organisations
PA	Poverty Alleviation	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
PAC	Personnel Advisory Committee	SHGs	Self-Help Groups
PCs	Personal Computers	SMM	Second Ministerial Meeting
PDBF	Palli Daridra Bimochon Foundation	SOCSEA	Sub-regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation	TC	Technical Committee
PNPM	National Programme for Community Empowerment	TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
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	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
RCF	Regional Cooperation Fund	US AID	United States Agency for International Development
RD	Rural Development	WAN	Wide Area Network
RDA	Rural Development Academy	WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development
RDCD	Rural Development and Co-operative Division		
RDR	Rural Development Report		

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 words are preferred. They might be submitted on CDs (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 website at www.cirdap.org.sg. For further details, please contact the Editor.

REGIONAL IRD NETWORK

Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Dev. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Dev. Darul Aman Road, Nela Bagh Street Kabul	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Aman Road, Nela Bagh Street Kabul
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 Jakarta-10110
Iran	Rural Development Planning Office Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Shahid Abbaspoor Street Valiassr Avenue, Tehran	Economic and International 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	Ministry of Local Development Shri Mahal, Pulchowk Lalitpur
Pakistan	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, 2 nd 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 3 rd floor, DAR 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	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok
Vietnam	International Cooperation Dept. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bach Thao Hanoi	International Cooperation Dept. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bach Thao Hanoi

