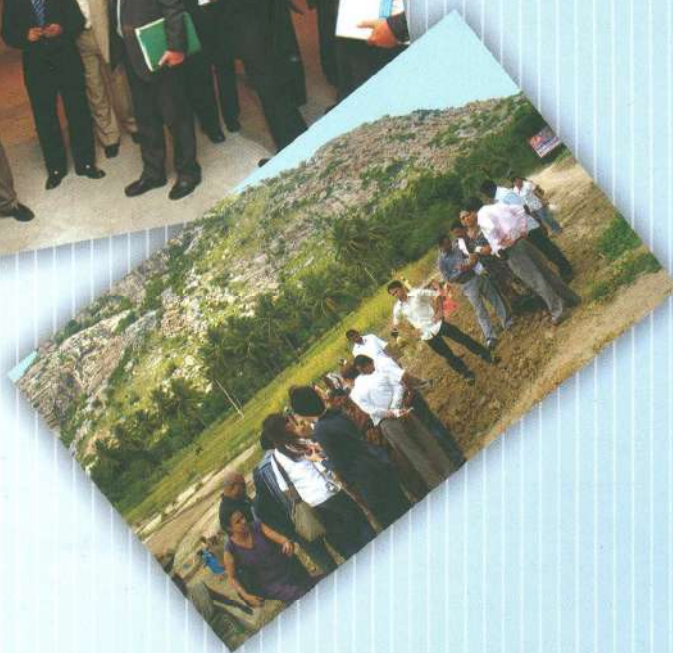


CIRDAP

Annual Report 2010



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 15 member countries. The member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji Islands, 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
2010**



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

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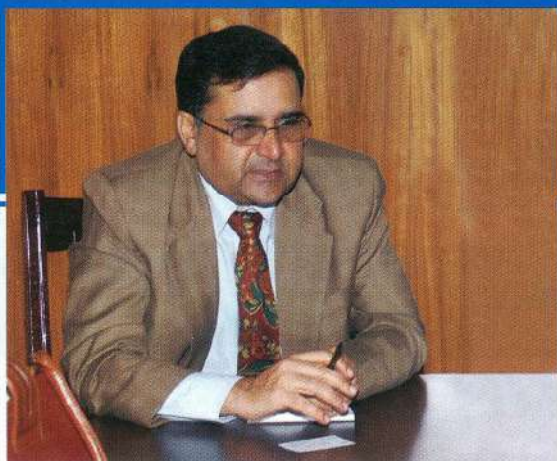
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2010 in Review *Director General's Report*

2010 has been a landmark year for the Centre as CIRDAP organised the Second Ministerial Meeting (SMM) on Rural Development in the Asia-Pacific region at the Headquarters after a long gap of 23 years. The First Ministerial Meeting was organised in Dhaka in 1987. The rural development and agriculture ministers and secretaries, development partners and policy experts in

the region, took part in the discussions and came out with the Dhaka Declaration as an outcome of concrete efforts.

The policy bodies of CIRDAP decided in the Sixteenth Governing Meeting (GC-16) in Manila in 2007 to review the existing rural development (RD) and poverty alleviation (PA) policies and programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) and evaluate CIRDAP from its institutional and strategic perspectives in the changed context. The policy bodies also suggested CIRDAP to organise a high level Ministerial Meeting to discuss findings of the policy review and deliberate upon the emerging issues relating to RD and PA to provide guidance and direction to the new mandate for CIRDAP.

Following the suggestion of the policy bodies, the SMM was organised on 27-28 January 2010 in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and the Government of Japan. Several events were arranged coinciding with the SMM: EC-27 Meeting on 24 January 2010; GC-17 Meeting on 25 January 2010; Donors Meeting in the afternoon of 25 January 2010; Regional Policy Dialogue, and Inauguration of ICT Centre on 26 January 2010.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, inaugurated the Second Ministerial Meeting in the morning on 27 January 2010. After the Inaugural Session, a Plenary Session was organised where the country delegates made country statements highlighting the present priorities of the countries based on which a Dhaka Declaration was prepared and presented on 28 January 2010.



H.E. Sheikh Hasina (C), Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, at the inauguration of the Second Ministerial Meeting



Delegates of the SMM formally announcing the Dhaka Declaration at a press conference right after the signing ceremony

Dhaka Declaration

In the Dhaka Declaration, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers and high-level representatives of the Asia-Pacific countries underscored the significant contribution of CIRDAP to promote integrated rural development in its member countries over the last three decades and to the implementation of the 'Peasants Charter' that resulted from the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in 1979.

In the Declaration it was acknowledged that there is a multiplicity of structures involved in RD and PA programmes that includes several government agencies, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), micro-finance institutions, private firms and donors. Therefore, convergence/integrated approach at national and local levels with decentralised governance will be conducive to facilitate and coordinate with these institutions for enhanced participatory development, better service delivery, self-employment generation, development and marketing of products/services for RD and PA.

They also emphasised the effects of climate change on sustainability of rural livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific region with special mention of the Copenhagen Accord 2009, which called for enhanced action and international cooperation and adaptation for reducing vulnerability and building resilience in vulnerable developing countries; And they reiterated the New Delhi Declaration adopted by CIRDAP Ministerial Retreat on 24-26 June 2008 for wider use of ICT in improving the livelihoods of the rural poor and empowering women in CMCs.

Dialogue with Development Partners

CIRDAP organised a meeting with the Development Partners focusing on two pressing issues: Supporting result based RD and PA policies at national and regional levels; and Developing a converging point between Donors and CMCs for capacity building and reviewing process. Four major actors were ... in the meeting - CIRDAP Secretariat, delegates from the CMCs, donors and non-CIRDAP member countries. Over 42 major development partners working in RD and PA were invited. However, only a few senior professionals and mostly the local representatives from IFAD, the Commonwealth, ICIMOD, AARDO, ANGOC, DFID, SDC, WFP, USAID, GTZ, FAO and ADB participated. The participants from non-CIRDAP countries included Australia, Fiji and Japan.

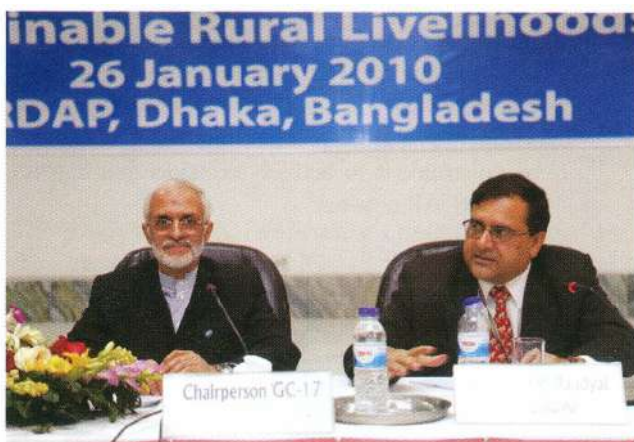
The involvement of development partners' in RD and PA is substantial in almost all developing countries. In the early 1980s, it was realised that the rural poor are much below than the government budget and institutions can reach, because, the rural poor are scattered, unorganised and vulnerable to take advantage of the policy packages. There are also structural problems of the public transmission mechanism, from centre to the local level, as well as the

market forces that favour the better-off households. Hence, major portion of the development budget, meant for the poor, is absorbed somewhere in the middle.

In this context, the meeting with the Development Partners was organised along with the recipient countries of Asia-Pacific regions in order to harmonise the policies and enhance the country ownership, as decided by the Paris Declaration 2005. At the regional level, CIRDAP would play a role of regional platform for the development partners operating in the Asia-Pacific countries for sharing their knowledge, experiences and innovative practices for the benefit of all stakeholders. It is expected the lessons learnt from the meeting will immensely help others to organise such meetings in future.

Regional Policy Dialogue

Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods organised in Dhaka was the fourth in the series. This year Dialogue was jointly organised by the Ministry of Local Government,



H.E. Dr. J. Khalghani (L), Iranian Vice-Minister, chairing the policy dialogue

Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and CIRDAP with the assistance from the Government of Japan on 26 January 2010 at CIRDAP Headquarters. The purpose of holding the Policy Dialogue was to engage the policy bodies of CIRDAP into deliberations upon emerging critical policy issues on RD and PA and addressing them through regional cooperation among the CIRDAP countries.

The day-long Policy Dialogue recommended, inter-alia, that attention should be given to increase employment opportunities in the non-farm sector through converging policies; it is required to identify the rural development areas and then identify the dynamics of rural development; access to land and migration are important issues in this context; a diverse portfolio of activities can contribute towards sustainability in rural livelihoods approach. There is a wide scope within existing rural development policies that can be beneficial to the forms of diversification, and any change in the existing policies must emphasise people, their assets and activities rather than sectors and their performance as the conventional approach used to do.

Initiation of ICT Centre

H.E. Shri C.P. Joshi, Honourable Minister for Rural Development and Minister for Panchayati Raj, Government of India, initiated the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre at the CIRDAP Headquarters in the evening of 26 January 2010. The proposed ICT Centre will be set up at the newly constructed CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC).

Over the recent years, the demand for harnessing the potentials of ICT for Rural Development has



H.E. Dr. Joshi (L) unveiling a plaque at the ICT Centre

increased manifolds. There are many examples, of how ICT applications have improved the lives and livelihoods of the rural poor. CIRDAP, as a Centre committed to provide information and communication services for rural development to its member countries, needs to strengthen its ICT facilities to render better services. During the GC-16 Meeting, Government of India assured its fullest cooperation in setting up an ICT Centre.

Building Bridges

H.E. Ahmed Sareer, the High Commissioner of Maldives in Bangladesh, visited CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka on 2 May 2010. He had extensive discussion with DG and other senior officials of CIRDAP of mutual interest.

The discussions also included the types of cooperation and academic help in rural development between CIRDAP and Maldives.

High Commissioner showed keen interest in exploring the possibilities of Maldives in joining the CIRDAP network.

A CIRDAP team, headed by Director General and other senior officials, called on Dr. Wu Zhong, Director General of the IPRCC at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka on 23 August 2010. Dr. Zhong and his team were visiting Bangladesh as part of a Ministerial level delegation from China. Dr. Zhong informed the CIRDAP team about the activities of IPRCC and mentioned that there are common grounds and common goals between the two centres. CIRDAP team briefed Dr. Zhong about the activities of the Centre and requested him to pursue his government to actively consider joining the CIRDAP network.



Mr. Afzaal Mahmood, The Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan in Bangladesh called on DG CIRDAP on 29 December 2010 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

DG, CIRDAP called on H.E. Jamaluddin Bin Sabeh, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh at the High Commission in Dhaka on 6 December 2010. They discussed matters of mutual interest.



Fiji Joins CIRDAP

Republic of the Fiji Islands has joined CIRDAP as the Centre's 15th Member State from June 2010. CIRDAP extends heartiest welcome to the newest member of its family. Fiji consists of 300 islands, and its population is 837, 271, according to 2007 census.

CIARPS 2009

The CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) 2009 was held during 4-5 July 2010 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development attended the inaugural session as a special guest. Every year at CIARPS, the staff-members together critically review the activities of the Centre for the previous year and formulate annual work plans for the next year.

Publication, Website, Library and Gratuity Committees

As decided in the Annual Review Planning Seminar (CIARPS) - '09 in July 2010, several important committees were constituted on publications, website, library and gratuity. The committees worked quite extensively and came up with concrete suggestions and recommendations.

The seven-members **Publication Committee** headed by the Director Training, who was also the Director in charge of ICD at the time, met several times to discuss the important issues regarding the publications of CIRDAP. To sharpen the qualitative and quantitative aspects and all the management processes of publications, the Committee dealt with issues like better storage, classification, disposing of old publications, maintaining archive, updating distribution list and developing marketing strategies. The Committee made several recommendations accordingly, and the final report was submitted to the Director General. The follow-up actions are being undertaken by the Information and Communication Division (ICD).

A **Website Committee** headed by the Director PPD was formed to review and update the existing materials and suggest ways to make the CIRDAP website more interactive and useful. The seven-member committee sat several times and framed a website policy of CIRDAP which would act as a guideline for updating, upgrading and maintaining the CIRDAP website in future. Accordingly ICD is upgrading and rearranging the CIRDAP website.

A **Library Committee** was constituted to review the existing stock of books in CIRDAP library; recommend policy and strategy for better management of the library; suggest appropriate ways and means to update the library with new knowledge; and suggest policy and strategy to link up CIRDAP library with other knowledge-based institutions and libraries. Headed by the Director Training, the seven-member committee met several times and made several recommendations, and accordingly the final report was submitted. Most of the suggestions were implemented and the setting of the library was rearranged.

A seven-member **Gratuity Committee** was formed to review the existing operational mechanism of gratuity of CIRDAP staff-members, recommend policy strategy for gratuity and suggest ways to move forward. With Head, Administration and Finance, in the chair, the Committee met several times, discussed the issues very carefully and made several recommendations. The Committee Members proposed that the Gratuity Scheme be implemented immediately as per decision of GC-12.

The Dhaka Declaration on Rural Development

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28 January 2010

We, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers and high level representatives of the member countries of CIRDAP, meeting in Dhaka on 27 January 2010, underscore the significant contribution of CIRDAP to promote Integrated Rural Development (IRD) in its member countries over the last three decades and to the implementation of the 'Peasants Charter' that resulted from the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in 1979;

Recalling the first ever Ministerial Meeting of Rural Development (RD) on 9th April 1987 and the subsequent Dhaka Declaration expressed political commitment and support to RD in improving quality of life of the rural poor;

Recognising that, in Asia and the Pacific region, poverty has a rural face and hence RD and Poverty Alleviation (PA) are two sides of the same coin;

Realising the sea changes in the social and economic contexts at national and international level;

Acknowledging that there is a multiplicity of structures involved in RD and PA programmes that include several government agencies. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), micro-finance institutions, private firms and donors, therefore, convergence/integrated approach at national and local levels with decentralised governance will be conducive to facilitate and coordinate with these institutions for enhanced participatory development, better service delivery, self-employment generation, development and marketing of products/services for RD and PA;

Realising the effects of climate change on sustainability of rural livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific region with special mention to the Copenhagen Accord 2009, which called for enhanced action and international cooperation and adaptation for reducing vulnerability and building resilience in vulnerable developing countries;

Reiterating the New Delhi Declaration adopted by CIRDAP Ministerial Retreat 24-26 June 2008 for wider use of ICT in improving the livelihoods of the rural poor and empowering women in CMCs;

Recognising that CIRDAP can further be developed as an effective and proactive regional level platform of RD policy dialogue to generate new perceptions, ideas and insights for policy formulation;

HAVING AGREED, WE EMPHASISE IRD AS A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR RURAL POOR THROUGH DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AS FOLLOWS:

- Ensure pro-poor policy and resources to contribute in achieving the goal of reducing hunger and poverty at least by half by 2015;
- Strengthen mechanism to listen to the voices of all stakeholders including the hard-core poor, the disadvantaged women, and various marginal groups to accommodate their concerns in public spending on development;
- Empower the local governments for effective administration of policies and programmes for RD and PA;

We further call for:

- intensive efforts so that the rural poor can get access to resources (land, water, ICT and finance) by suitable policy reforms within the national legal provisions;
- implementation of the existing legislations for ensuring access to and improved land records;
- priority support to the decentralised good governance with transparency and accountability in the system to ensure people's participation in the rural development activities;
- strengthening the capacity of national RD institutions to become centre of excellence, in order to provide professional services and academic inputs into the process of rural development;
- applying practices of good governance in making CIRDAP an effective regional platform for providing timely interventions and appropriate issues in RD and PA policies.

We invite all countries of Asia and the Pacific to join CIRDAP and share their experiences.

We invite FAO, IFAD, Commonwealth and other partner organisations of CIRDAP to provide all technical support to regional level rural development organisation, including CIRDAP, to play greater role in agrarian reform and rural development.

We call upon the regional organisations such as AARDO, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, ECO, SAARC and others to join hands with CIRDAP for the professional inputs and services in RD and PA policies and programmes.

We invite the development partners to use the platform of CIRDAP for disseminating their knowledge, experience and innovative practices in the areas of RD and PA.

WE COMMIT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS DECLARATION THROUGH CMCs.


H.E. Syed Ashraful Islam

Minister
Ministry of Local Government,
Rural Development and Cooperatives,
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh



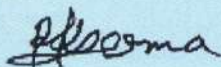
H.E. Dr. C. P. Joshi

Minister for Rural Development and
Minister for Panchayati Raj, Government of India



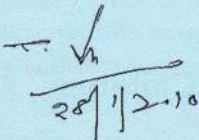
H.E. Mr. Purna Kumar Sherma Limbu

Minister for Local Development
Ministry of Local Development,
Government of Nepal



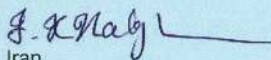
H.E. Justice (Retd) Abdul Razak A. Thahim

Federal Minister
Ministry of Local Government and
Rural Development,
Government of Pakistan



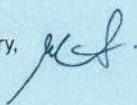
H.E. Dr. J. Khalghani

Vice-Minister
Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Iran



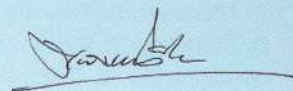
H.E. Dr. Ty Phommasack

Vice-Minister for Agriculture & Forestry,
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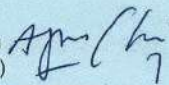
H.E. Dato' Hasan bin Malek

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Rural and Regional
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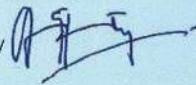
Mr. Ajmal Shirzai

Senior Advisor & Head of Afghanistan
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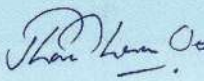
Mr. Arwan E. Surbakti

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Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia



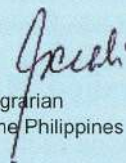
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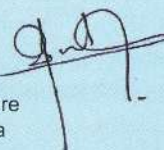
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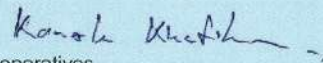
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Director
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and
Training Institute (HARTI), Ministry of Agriculture
Development and Agrarian Services, Sri Lanka



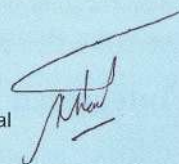
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Advisor to Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives,
Royal Thai Government



Mr. Pham Khanh Ly

Deputy Director General
Department of Cooperative and Rural
Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development, Hanoi, Vietnam



Collaboration between CIRDAP and JADE

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CIRDAP and Japan Association of Drainage and Environment (JADE) was signed on 23 December 2010 at CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka, to work together in collaboration on projects related to Ecological Sanitation in the location of CIRDAP member countries.



DG CIRDAP (R) and Chairperson JADE exchanging MoU documents

This MoU established the general basis for implementing projects on Ecological Sanitation and accomplishing the each party's responsibilities for mutual benefits. In this regard, CIRDAP and JADE may prepare project proposals, seeking fund jointly as collaborative partners in implementing environment friendly sanitation in rural Bangladesh context. It is expected that both organisations would be benefited from implementing eco-sanitation projects,

by using each other's specialisation like CIRDAP networking and access in policy level with government(s) and JADE's technical knowledge in implementing on EcoSan toilets. This model of Eco-Sanitation may be replicated to other CMCs.

Watershed Management for RD and PA

On occasion of the 31st Founding Anniversary of CIRDAP, the Centre organised a national seminar on 'Watershed Management for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in CIRDAP Member Countries' at its Headquarters in Dhaka on 6 July 2010. Renowned academicians, intellectuals, think tanks, rural development practitioners and development professionals in Bangladesh took part in the half-day seminar.

The objectives of the national seminar were: to develop an indepth understanding of watersheds and generate sufficient knowledge on the complex watershed management programmes; to critically review what had been done so far by the regional powers and international organisations in the management of regional watersheds; to know about the present challenges in watershed management both at upstream and downstream communities; and to see what CIRDAP as a regional organisation can offer and how can it initiate a regional plan for joint watershed management programme with its member countries from South Asia i.e. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Integrated Basic Health Care for Rural School Children

CIRDAP initiated this programme in 2009 and continued it in 2010. The programme has been implemented in four phases, like: a) Medical Check-up, b) Knowledge Generation, c) Equipping school children with hygiene care pack, and d) Supply of safe drinking water and sanitation for rural school children through Iran Water Aid Programme and other development partners. Now incorporating the environment friendly Eco-Sanitation in the rural schools are in the implementation process. In fact, safe drinking water, proper sanitation and appropriate hygiene practice is obligatory for sound health.

Seed Processing for Rural Farmers

The Centre organised two field workshops on Seed Processing in the reporting year with a total 80 farmers and rural community people in rural areas of CVDP, in collaboration with

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD). The workshops were follow-up activities of a national workshop on 'Reduction of Post-Harvest Agricultural Crops Losses' held in 2009. With these field workshops, CIRDAP was able to create a common forum of discussions on problems and ways and means to solve the problems related to seed preparing, processing, harvesting and storing at grassroots level. The forum included the beneficiaries (farmers), experts, and service-providers.

Programmes with NIRD

CIRDAP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, organised several international training programmes in the year 2010. In order to encourage and motivate the developing countries to make real efforts to attack and alleviate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region through capacity building, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, sponsored the programmes.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes: The training programme was held at NIRD from 22 February to 03 March 2010. The programme was organised to discuss the country-specific models and approaches of development programmes and M&E mechanism and to impart skills and knowledge on the participatory methods and techniques on Monitoring and Evaluation. The programme was attended by 20 senior level officers and development functionaries from 13 member countries.

Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best practices: This programme was organised on 22-31 March 2010 at NIRD. The main objectives of the programme were: to examine the linkages between policy and practice in rural development, natural resource management and in the countries of the region, and to review current use of GIS and IT in rural development and identify the potential areas where GIS can play an effective role. The programme was attended by 15 officers from nine countries, namely, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Results Based Management: Performance Indicators and M&E: The training programme conducted from 30 August to 08 September 2010 was very important to the CMCs. The highlights of the programme were to enhance the capabilities of the development functionaries/project managers to identify and develop performance indicators and to improve the trainees' ability to identify, collect and analyse relevant data on various performance indicators. The programme was attended by 18 officers from 11 countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects: CIRDAP and NIRD jointly organised the training programme to familiarise and equip the participants with the strategies and approaches relevant to the management of drinking water and sanitation projects in the rural areas, especially in CIRDAP countries. This programme was conducted in association with HARTI, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka, a link institute of CIRDAP in Colombo. The 10-day programme, from 01 to 10 November 2010, was attended by 22 senior officers from 11 countries - Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Post-Graduate Diploma in RD Management: Under the regional cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, as a good-will gesture, has offered to sponsor five slots to the CMCs in one year Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management in order to develop capacities of rural development managers. This programme is important as there is a dire need of RD professionals in most of the countries in Asia-Pacific region, and it will provide better competence to deal with planning and implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

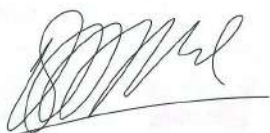
Future Perspective

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.

CIRDAP has a space to play a vital role in advocating the government and international agencies for taking special programmes to address food insecurity problem. An effective market regulatory system can also be established in the CMCs with technical support from CIRDAP. The Centre can play an important role to integrate CMCs into global economy and to investigate its impact on agriculture, rural areas and farmers in the CMCs. CIRDAP can 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.

Undoubtedly, CIRDAP has been well placed to play a significant role in improving rural livelihoods, enhancing agricultural productivity and infrastructure support. This role has been emphasised in the Dhaka Declaration. The strength of CIRDAP lies in three fundamental elements: firstly, it is a regional institution with 15 Asia-Pacific countries; secondly, it is government-based and therefore, has government entities as its link in member countries; and thirdly, its primary theme is rural development. With this strength CIRDAP can play a critical role to promote sustainable rural livelihoods in the CMCs through addressing the constraints and widening the horizons of opportunities.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal
Director General

Policy Body Meetings

EC-27 Meeting

The Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-27) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24-25 January 2010. Delegates from all the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) attended the meeting. Representatives of IFAD and Commonwealth Secretariat were present as observers. The Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Australia, Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam were also present during the inaugural session of the meeting. H.E. Syed Ashrafur Islam, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the EC-27 Meeting as Chief Guest.

During the business session, the delegates unanimously elected Bangladesh and Iran as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of EC-27 Meeting respectively.



Inaugural session of EC-27. (L-R) Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Ms. Elena Cabanes, H.E. Syed Ashrafur Islam, H.E. Jahangir K. Nanak and Ms. Rokeya Sultana

Suggestions/Decisions

There were a number of agendas put forward before the Executive Committee based on the recommendations of the CIRDAP Evaluation Committee. The Executive Committee reviewed in detail and made the following comments/suggestions:

- The Revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the Fifteenth Biennium (2008-2009) was discussed and accepted. However, suggestions were made to improve the format of presentation of programme and administrative budget.
- The Proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for Sixteenth Biennium (2010-2011) were discussed. Substantial enhancement has been proposed in PWB for 16th

Biennium. Furthermore, transfer of funds from the working capital fund and DRF has been proposed for general expenditure. These are significant proposals. Therefore, it was decided to constitute a Sub-Committee of the EC comprising Bangladesh as chair and India, Pakistan, Philippines and Iran as members to look into the proposed PWB for 2010-11. Meanwhile, for the operational continuity of the Centre, the same budget as recommended for the 15th biennium PWB is recommended for the PWB of 16th biennium. The Sub-Committee shall submit its report to the Chairperson of the 17th Governing Council by 31 May 2010.

- The Philippines wanted to know the status of Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF). It was stated by the Director General that this fund would be utilised for development of human resources of member countries. For the purpose a few reputed academic International Organisations were contacted to admit candidates from the member countries in their Masters or Ph.D programmes. Similarly, the Post-Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management offered by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, has agreed to admit candidates from the member countries. Since the fund is inadequate to meet the course fee and hence only the travel cost could be met under the available funds in the scheme. The Chairperson mentioned that BRAC University is conducting long-term programmes which can be considered for this purpose. The Pakistan representative wanted to know how many countries have contributed their share to the RCF by now. The Director General mentioned that Pakistan, Philippines, India and Bangladesh have given their contribution till now. This matter was further discussed, and it was suggested that the secretariat should take up this issue and remind the member countries to release their contributions. The Chairperson opined that a time-frame may be decided so that the member countries should adhere to the time-frame in releasing their contribution. After several suggestions, a consensus arrived at that it should be within one financial/calendar year.
- The Pakistan delegate wanted to know the status of the proposal of Commonwealth Secretariat to organise meeting of CLIs. The Chairperson suggested that Adviser (Asia) of Commonwealth Secretariat is attending the Second Ministerial Meeting, and during this period it can be clarified.
- The Chairperson suggested including BRAC as a member of the Technical Committee.
- The Pakistan delegate was happy about the Action Research done by CIRDAP in Bangladesh relating to health care of children and enquired about the possibility of circulating that document among CMCs. He also suggested that the best practices available in the member countries would also be circulated. He mentioned that in Pakistan there is emphasis on capacity building of national institutes, a similar recommendation is given by the Evaluation Committee of CIRDAP to strengthen the link institute of CIRDAP. He informed that 491 million Rupees has been placed for capacity building of AHK NCRD and other related institutions within three years of period and the scheme provided for infrastructure development and capacity development of faculty members.
- The IFAD representative mentioned about the importance of the project on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor, and he wanted that the project to be completed and the findings of the study should be circulated as it would provide inputs for the policy formulation. Moreover, its important finding may be reflected in the Dhaka Declaration. Director General mentioned that an exclusive slot has been given in the forthcoming Policy Dialogue slated on 26 January 2010 in which the analysis and major findings of the study will be presented and discussed. He further mentioned that the pending Indonesian Study will be completed by utilising the balance money available.

- The representative from the Philippines inquired about the status of expanding membership of CIRDAP for which some countries have been extended invitation. DG, CIRDAP, replied that the invitation contains two components, first was the invitation to participate in the Second Ministerial Meeting and another was for membership. He mentioned that the response was encouraging and countries like Australia, Fiji, Japan, Cambodia have accepted the invitation for the Second Ministerial Meeting. Cambodia expressed that they may join CIRDAP subject to administrative clearance and it will take some time. DG, CIRDAP also mentioned that some countries have shown interest in joining CIRDAP, and they have enquired about the administrative process to become member. The delegate further enquired about the output of three policy dialogues and one ministerial retreat held earlier.
- The Indian delegate suggested making CIRDAP more meaningful and purposeful to CMCs. Also there is a need for qualitative improvement in the activity report, he said. He mentioned that the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has budgetary allocation of Rs.74000 crore which is nine per cent of the total budget of the country and is meant for the flagship programmes on wage-employment, self-employment and other rural development programmes. He also mentioned that common problems of neighbouring countries of the Asia-Pacific region could be taken up for Action Research. He mentioned that the training programmes should have longitudinal follow-up wherein detailed information about the programme, thematic inputs, level of participants, impression of trainees, lessons learnt by the trainees and its application in their job should be reflected in the report in order to make it more qualitative. He further mentioned that for flagship programmes ministry has developed information, education and communication (IEC) strategy and materials for the capacity building of local government and also e-governance has been introduced. It has made several strides in improving local governance system and service delivery in the rural areas for the common people. While expressing interest of Bangladesh, the Chairperson said that these materials may be collected and successful IT practices can be documented and circulated to the member countries. Such materials will be quite handy for countries, particularly in view of introduction of the scheme like Digital Bangladesh by 2021. The Chairperson suggested that CIRDAP Technical Committee should look into all these areas and prepare appropriate and topical research project proposals.
- The Chairperson mentioned that there is a mismatch between the project proposals and availability of funds. IFAD representative commenting on it said that money is not a constraint but it is the lack of good ideas and good project proposals. The CMCs and donors should work together to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people. The Chairperson said that the CIRDAP Technical Committee should take these into account and consider the emerging issues which are topical in nature on which project proposals could be prepared.
- In the proposed programme of Work and Budget (PWB 2010-11), some delegates requested to reconsider the proposal for 25 per cent increase in the country contribution as some CMCs expressed reservations on this issue. Indian representative inquired about the ratio of administrative expenditure and programme expenses in the total budget. He suggested that the accounting system should be streamlined and the format needs to be revised to make it self-explanatory.
- The delegate from Pakistan mentioned that in granting advances, it should comply with rules and regulations. Internal audit will keep a check on these. It was suggested that the internal audit of the account should be done and on this purpose outside agency may be appointed to do internal auditing. It was also suggested that the compliance on the objections raised by the external auditor should also be mentioned in the report.

- The highlights of the Evaluation Report was presented by the Director General, CIRDAP, and he mentioned that the report was circulated to all member countries and CLIs for their comments and seven countries offered their comments and suggestions which were incorporated while finalising the report. The Chairperson mentioned that Secretariat should follow up with the countries who have not yet given comments on the report. The representative from Thailand suggested that the Evaluation Report should not be finalised unless the Agenda Item 11 is settled. He wanted to know about the decision of the Committee about the 25 per cent increase in the country contribution. Pakistan representative mentioned that the Committee should accept the evaluation report.

Operationalisation of Recommendations of CEC Report-2009

(a) Capacity Building of CIRDAP Secretariat:

The IFAD representative mentioned whether increase in the staff and increase in the retirement age would build the capacity of the institution. It more depends upon the efficiency and quality of the professionals. He inquired about the ways in which CIRDAP is planning to increase the efficiency and quality of the output.

The Indian representative mentioned that through internal reengineering and outsourcing of certain works the administrative cost will reduce. He also suggested that the strength of the professional and technical staff should be increased, not the administrative staff. The Vice-Chairperson also suggested that local experts are available who can be resource persons for the institute, and it will also decrease the financial burden. To translate the slogan 'Regional Cooperation for Change' into action, the system has to be managed properly and available resources could be harnessed and various institutions in the country could assist CIRDAP.

(b) & (c) Restructuring of CIRDAP Network & Capacity Building of CLIs:

The Vice-Chairperson of EC-27 mentioned that according to FAO report, by 2050, 70 per cent increase in food requirement is needed. The number of farmers is reducing and hence young persons should be trained to take care of farms. The Indian delegate mentioned that involvement of private sector is increasing and public-private partnership model has to be encouraged as many private sectors are having Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Under CSR, projects can be taken up in partnership and private sectors can be roped in.

This agenda item was discussed thoroughly and finally a consensus emerged to constitute a small committee to refine the recommendations of the evaluation committee. It was further suggested that implementation of some of the recommendations can be taken up by the Secretariat pending the report of the sub-committee. Both Philippines and Thailand mentioned that the selection of the CIRDAP Contact Ministry and Link Institution is squarely the prerogative of the government.

(d) Repositioning of CIRDAP as a Platform for Regional Cooperation:

From discussion it emerged that this agenda item should be referred to a sub-committee to go into details and make recommendations. The Vice-Chairperson suggested that a baseline upon which the above recommendations should be examined:

- No changes in staff
- The cost involved in the sub-committee, travel to be borne by the respective CMCs
- Action plan to operationalise the recommendations

After detailed discussion the consensus arrived to form a committee to examine the proposals of the CEC in terms of financial implications and provide recommendation with an action plan by the end of May 2010.

Expansion of CIRDAP Membership

Director General has been authorised to follow up with the prospective countries who are interested to join CIRDAP as a Member with copies to CMCs to follow it up through their diplomatic channels.

Amendment of CIRDAP Agreement

The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to explain the need for the change in CIRDAP Agreement. Since the proposal did not have sufficient rationale, it was referred to the sub-committee to examine it further.

Updating of CIRDAP Operations Manual in the Changing Context

Vice-Chairperson mentioned that since the operation manual was prepared in 1983, so it is quite convincing that it needs revision and updating in the present context, but no proper rationale has been advanced in the proposal. Since a committee is already been constituted to examine the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee, this aspect may also be referred to the Committee. The Indian delegate supported the idea.

Recommendations

- EC-27 recommends to initiate renewed action on Regional Cooperation Fund by writing to non-contributing countries so far by CIRDAP Secretariat requesting them to adhere to a time-frame of one calendar/financial year.
- Agenda-4/EC-27/2009 was accepted and recommend for approval to GC-17.
- It is recommended that IFAD, ECO, AIT, BRAC from the professional institutions category and Prof. Yoshihiro Kaida as IRD expert to the TC for coming two years.
 - i) It was suggested to circulate a comprehensive report on the activities containing output of policy dialogues and Delhi Declaration, impact of programme activities. It may have longitudinal follow-up and its impact analysis of all activities.
 - ii) CIRDAP should break new ground by looking at regional issues affecting countries in geographical continuum.
 - iii) Some of the countries have generated various modules and documents on programme specific on Information, Education and Communication (IEC). These materials should be collected and circulated to all member countries for their benefit and replication.
 - iv) The important findings of research study sponsored by IFAD on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor should be circulated to all member countries as it has policy dimensions which will facilitate policy formulations in the countries.
- The issue of auditing of accounts of the Centre was discussed and it was suggested that compliance report on the issues raised by the external auditor should also be reflected in the report. For internal auditing a local auditor is to be hired. The format in which the financial report is submitted needs to be revised and the items suggested to be incorporated to make the report self-explanatory and transparent. However, the financial report has been approved and recommended to GC for approval.
- The Evaluation Report has been accepted and recommended to the GC for approval as a report. Since its recommendations are of wider ramifications, it was decided to refer to the Sub-Committee as mentioned in Agenda 8.

- The Operationalisation of the Evaluation Report has been referred to the Sub-Committee as mentioned in Agenda 8.
- Director General has been authorised to communicate with the prospective countries to join CIRDAP as a member with copies to CMCs for following up through their diplomatic channel. Regarding the collaboration the regional organisations, it was suggested that Director General may follow it up through the member countries.

GC-17 Meeting

The Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-17) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 25 January 2010. Delegates/representatives from all CMCs attended the meeting. Considering the valuable times of the honourable Ministers and Secretaries, the duration of GC Meeting was reduced to one day in place of full two days in order to complete the whole events like Meeting with Development Partners, Regional Policy Dialogue, Second Ministerial Meeting, Dhaka Declaration and field visits in five days.

The outgoing Chairperson of GC-16 (the Philippines) thanked all the delegates attending the meeting from CMCs, non-CMCs, and Development Partners/ International Organisations. He also conveyed best wishes of his Department and Government to all the distinguished delegates. He thanked the Government of Bangladesh for hosting and organising the meeting. With his preliminary remarks, the GC-16 Chairperson initiated the meeting. The meeting unanimously elected Bangladesh as Chairperson and Iran as Vice-Chairperson of GC-17.



Delegates of the GC-17 Meeting

After detailed discussions and deliberations during the meeting, GC-17 made several observations, decisions and recommendations:

Observations

On Agenda Item 8, Proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-2011, the Philippine delegate enquired whether the proposed budget would ensure efficiency in the use of resources that would significantly improve activities of the Centre.

- The Sub-Committee shall examine thoroughly the proposed budget and put up for formal approval of the GC.

Suggestions

On Agenda Item 9 (PWB, 2006-2007), the delegate from Philippines also suggested, for the Secretariat to:

- a) Submit compliance report to 2006-2007 audit findings and recommendations including extent of adoption of recommended measures such as proper fund liquidation and disbursement,
- b) Conduct audit to fully account for the utilisation of the member countries' contribution for the last three years so that the CMCs will have basis in approving the recommended increase in countries' contribution.

Decisions

- For the operational continuity of the CIRDAP, the GC-17 decided that for 2010-2011, the same budget as recommended for the 15th biennium PWB is recommended for the PWB of 16th biennium.
- EC-27 report was adopted subject to the condition that the budget of 2010-11 will be examined by the Sub-Committee as suggested by the EC-27 and submits report to the Chairperson of EC-27. The EC Chairperson will circulate the recommendations of the sub-committee to EC Members for approval by circulation. The recommendation of EC for such revised PWB, 2010-2011 will be placed before GC-17 Chairperson, who may seek approval of GC by circulation.
- Director General CIRDAP requested CMCs for their contributions for the construction of International Conference Centre on CIRDAP campus. The delegate from Bangladesh informed that the ultimate aim is to have a state-of-the-art conference centre at the regional level. However, due to escalation of prices of materials, the estimated cost has increased and it is difficult to complete it. There is shortage of Tk 5 crore (US\$700,000) to complete the building complex with all the modern facilities. She welcomed any kind of cooperation from other CIRDAP member countries in this regard. The delegate from India supported the idea that the member countries should share the financial burden to provide state-of-the-art facilities so that it becomes the symbol of regional solidarity and cooperation of all 14 member countries.
- Chairperson, while welcoming any kind of help for the ICC, said that the request is now being considered by Iran, and he is expecting a positive response from his country for assistance to complete it and make it a unique symbol.
- GC-17 strongly recommends that all member countries would make contributions to complete the CIRDAP International Conference Centre.
- The GC-17 had accepted the proposal of EC-27 that the EC-28 and GC-18 will be organised in Iran in 2011. Director General CIRDAP in consultation with the country will fix the date of the meeting.
- GC-17 expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the excellent arrangements made by CIRDAP and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

EC-27 Sub-Committee Meeting

During the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-27) and Governing Council (GC-17) meetings held on 24-25 January 2010 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, it was decided to further review and examine some agendas/issues presented in the meeting, before final approval is given to them.

Subsequently a Sub-Committee was constituted with Bangladesh as the Chair and India, Iran, Pakistan and Philippines as the members. The meeting of the EC-27 Sub-Committee was held on 4-6 May 2010 in Dhaka.

Ms. Rokeya Sultana, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Bangladesh and Chairperson of the EC-27, presided over the meeting. Following members of the committee were present in the meeting: Dr. Pramod Kumar Anand, IAS, Director General, NRRDA, India; Brig. (Rtd.) Amanullah, Director General, AHK NCRD&MA, Pakistan and Ma. Elena C. Cabanes, OIC-Director, Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD), Philippines.

The Committee, after threadbare discussion, made the following recommendations and decisions:

On EC-27 Agenda 8: Proposed programme of work and budget (PWB) for Sixteenth biennium (2010-2011)



The Sub-Committee Meeting in progress

Examine the proposed budget (PWB) 2010-11 and come up with suggestions

- i. The appointment to the post of DDG may be deferred for the time being keeping in view financial constraints.
- ii. As operationalisation of CEC Report can be carried out only after approval of GC, the proposed Consultant to suggest modifications to the Operations Manual may be appointed only thereafter. An implication of this would be that effectively the Consultant would be engaged only for a limited period of four months towards the end of 2011, and so his/her expenses would be limited.
- iii. For better functional interaction, the meetings of TC and EC can be clubbed. For instance in 2010, TC may sit for 5 days during which EC may join in on the last 2 days. As this proposal is a deviation from the 2003 GC decision to hold back-to-back EC and GC meetings, this needs a prior ratification of GC.
- iv. Accordingly, during 2010 the first TC meeting can be clubbed with an EC meeting.
- v. During 2011, a TC meeting can be clubbed with an EC meeting, preferably 3 to 4 months before the meeting of GC.

- vi. The next Policy Dialogue can be held in 2011 along with the GC meeting, already scheduled in Tehran, Iran.
- vii. A revised PWB is appended. Among other changes, the various entries have been duly referenced to respective Tables. As the ICC is not yet ready, the proposed receipts from it in 2010, in the earlier draft, have been deleted, to make estimates realistic. CMCs, in the meanwhile, may be requested by CIRDAP appending an architectural vision, to contribute artifacts reflecting cultural diversity and depth of the region, to decorate ICC.

Look into the rationality of transfer of funds from the working capital fund and DRF for General expenditure.

- i. In the revised budget, it is not proposed to transfer any funds either from the working capital or from DRF for General Expenditure.
- ii. In future, should the need so arise, action can be taken as per para 6.5 of Operations Manual (Section II : Financial Management and Accounts).
- iii. The revised budget will be subjected to detailed scrutiny during the next TC/EC meeting.
- iv. For all international travels by DG/Directors, EC chairperson will be informed about the duration and purpose of the visit. The post visit report will be shared with all EC members.

On EC-27 Agenda 9: Consideration of the Report on the Audited Final Accounts of the Centre (2006-07)

Review the Formats for making financial reports self explanatory and transparent.

- The revised format for financial reports presented by CIRDAP in consultation with Sub-Committee members, may be adopted for the time being.

CIRDAP may seek approval of the revised budget prepared in the new format. The format may be further revised, if necessary, in due course.

- CIRDAP may follow up the audit objections and guidelines and present the compliance report in the next EC and GC. Review of audited accounts to verify proper utilisation of the member countries' contribution for the last three years so that the CMCs will have basis in approving the recommended increase in countries' contribution (GC-17).

During EC-27 and GC-17 meetings most of the CMCs had reservations on the issue of increase in annual membership contribution. It is a fact that the CMCs have not been fully utilising services of CIRDAP, though primarily it is because of CIRDAP not being proactive enough. But in the backdrop of the fact that due to discontinuation of donation from Japan (since 2000) CIRDAP did not have enough resources to fully carry out the expectations bestowed upon it. Therefore, in view of the financial constraints faced by CIRDAP, it is recommended that the issue may be discussed at length during the next TC meeting to formulate realistic recommendation for consideration of EC.

On EC-27 Agenda 10: Submission of the CIRDAP Evaluation Report-2009

Review and prioritise Recommendations of the Evaluation Report since the recommendations are of wider ramifications.

CIRDAP circulated the CEC recommendations along with CMCs comments formulated during TC-25 to EC-27 and GC-17. This format needs to be revised and include TC-25 comments, last EC/GC comments and the comments of the sub-committee on other agenda items as well. The consolidated format should be circulated to all CMCs for further guidance and suggestions.

Out of the various recommendations vision, mission and strategies as well as Resource Mobilisation should be accorded higher priority.

On EC-27 Agenda 11: Operationalisation of Recommendations of CEC Report-2009

Sub-Committee would also look into the following issues taking a holistic view of the available resources and changing paradigm of rural development. They would also verify/see whether there are contradictions with CIRDAP vision, missions and objectives while operationalising the following issues.

The Sub-committee recommends the following priorities for CIRDAP regarding operationalisation of CEC Report:

Capacity Building of CIRDAP Secretariat

- Hopefully in near future financial position of CIRDAP will improve. In the mean time following two steps may be undertaken:
- Internal adjustment maybe made to create balance within CIRDAP Divisions and Units as a short-term measure.
- Research wing may be strengthened by appointing Director (Research).

Restructuring of CIRDAP Network

- Following issues having strong bearing on Rural Development were identified as emerging issues in the CMCs that need to be addressed immediately: Climate Change, Water Management, Food Security, Human Trafficking, Drug Abuse, Disaster Management.
- CIRDAP should initiate projects on the above issues in collaboration with CMCs/CLIs. CLIs will prepare the concept papers and send to CIRDAP for improvement and circulation to CMC/CLIs for appropriate use.
- CIRDAP will prepare necessary training modules for CLIs to impart training to the stakeholders based on the above papers.

Capacity Building of CIRDAP Link Institutions

- a) CIRDAP should coordinate training/ awareness programmes for the members of Faculty/ resource persons in collaboration with CMCs.
- b) CIRDAP should circulate best practices in training module /training programmes to be adopted by CLIs.
- c) CIRDAP may guide the CLIs in preparing annual training calendars.

Repositioning of CIRDAP as a platform for regional cooperation

- a) In order to establish close working relations with the regional organisations, DG CIRDAP may initiate an appropriate letter in consultation with the member of the Sub- Committee. Copy of such letters may be sent to CMCs for follow-up through diplomatic channels.
- b) CIRDAP and CLIs should make efforts to seek invitation for their members to participate in the seminars/workshops/ other events with a view to establish better working relation.

Resource Mobilisation for professional services for RD and PA

- a) In order to stimulate core activities of CIRDAP on a sustainable and continuous basis, the Sub-Committee recommends that each member country may consider to organise at least one fully funded training programme and one research/action research project on specific themes of their requirement every year.
- b) Every member country should consider to provide some funds as seed money to CIRDAP that will be deposited as fixed deposit in a bank and will not be spent on any project /administrative expenses. For this purpose DG, CIRDAP will send an appropriate request to CMCs with a copy to CLIs for follow up.

Developing CIRDAP as a converging point between Donors and CMCs

- a) CIRDAP may write letters to the five countries in the Asia-Pacific region i.e. Japan, China, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand for cooperation and support and to become members of CIRDAP.

Copy of such a letter may be provided to CMCs and CLIs for follow up through diplomatic channels.

- b) Close working relationship may be established with the Development Partners by participating in their seminars etc and inviting them to CIRDAP events.

Strategic Partnership Development with Regional Organisations

- a) CIRDAP should write letter in consultation with members of the Sub-Committee to regional organisations e.g SAARC, ASEAN and ECO for seeking cooperation including funding for rural development .
- b) Invite members of aforesaid regional organisations to CIRDAP events.

On EC-27 Agenda 13: Amendment of CIRDAP Agreement

Review the need of the amendments of the existing CIRDAP agreement.

On EC-27 Agenda 14: Updating of CIRDAP Operations Manual in the Changing Context

The Sub-Committee will review the necessity of updating the Operations Manual.

In order to incorporate each feasible amendment in the manuals the task may be undertaken after the operationalisation of the CEC Report as by then all possible amendments would have been reviewed and approved.

On EC-27 Agenda 17: Others Matters (Appointment of DDG of CIRDAP)

The Sub- Committee will examine the whole issue of Organisational setup, outsourcing of some works and engaging part time consultants.

The issue of appointment of DDG has been in agenda 8. Regarding examining whole issue of Organisational set up and other issues are recommended in Agenda 10 and 11.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Director General, CIRDAP.

The report of the Sub-Committee was circulated to all EC members for their comments. Based on the comments from EC members, DG CIRDAP would finalise the report and submit it to the Chairperson of EC-27. Finally, the EC Chairperson will submit the report to the GC Chairperson who will circulate it to the GC Members for approval.

TC-26 Meeting

The Twenty-Sixth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-26) was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, at the Hotel Intercontinental in Kabul, Afghanistan during 11 to 14 December 2010.

The inaugural session of the meeting was held at Pamir Hall of Hotel Intercontinental on 11th December 2010. H.E. Mr. Jarullah Mansoori, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, inaugurated the meeting. Deputy Ministers Mr. Wais Ahmed Barmak, and Eng. Atiqullah Khawasi, of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) of Afghanistan and Mr. Mohammed Golam Quddus, Secretary, Rural Development and the Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C), Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson of 27th CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC- 27) graced the inaugural session as special guests.

TC members from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting. Professor Dr. Y. Kaida, IRD Expert (Japan), and representatives from several development partners such as World Bank, European Union (EU), JICA, UNDP, Embassy of Iran, etc. Attended the inaugural session. Besides, Senior Government Officials from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) and representatives from the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) also attended the inaugural session.

H.E. Mr. Jarullah Mansoori, Minister of MRRD welcomed the delegates to Kabul, the historic capital of Afghanistan. While thanking CIRDAP for organising a policy body meeting for the first time in Afghanistan, he reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to the objectives of CIRDAP. He outlined some of the steps initiated over the last ten years in Afghanistan for rural development and explained the formidable challenges faced in carrying forward through the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Comprehensive Rural Development Approach. He said that the emerging scenario demands new initiatives, policies and programmes. He hoped that AIRD would take up several policy research, evaluation and impact studies and capacity building and skill development programmes. Outlining the apex role to be assigned to AIRD, he called upon CIRDAP and CMCs to actively participate, collaborate and cooperate by exchanging the professional and technical talents available in the CMCs. He called upon the CMCs to broaden and intensify the cooperation between Afghanistan and CMCs and acknowledged the support received from CIRDAP and NIRD. He also thanked the international community for their support and impressed upon them to generously continue the support for the institutional development of AIRD.

Mr. Mohammed Golam Quddus, Secretary, RDCD of the Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson EC-27 expressed appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for the excellent support in hosting the meeting. He commended the past and on going contributions of CIRDAP in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation. He strongly endorsed the recommendations of the EC-27 Sub-Committee and suggested all CLIs/CMCs to consider undertaking one research/action research and one training programme each in collaboration with CIRDAP. He reiterated his Government's generous support in building the International Conference Centre. He urged upon all CMCs to provide state-of-the-art facilities so that it becomes a symbol of regional solidarity and cooperation of the 15 member countries.

While welcoming the delegates, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP provided a brief account of the activities of CIRDAP and expressed his hope for further enhancing

cooperation and collaboration among the member countries. He expressed his appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan particularly the MRRD for hosting TC-26 Meeting, the first such meeting in Afghanistan.



Inaugural session of the TC-26 Meeting

DG, CIRDAP lauded the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan for rebuilding the local institution and expressed CIRDAP's commitment to join hands for providing support to MRRD and AIRD in their endeavour. He expressed his hope that the Government of Afghanistan would consider the proposal submitted by CIRDAP on 'Development of Participatory Local Governance System in Afghanistan'.

Citing the findings of the CIRDAP Evaluation Report, DG, CIRDAP expressed hope that strengthening the capacity of CLIs may improve the professional activities regarding rural development policies and programmes in the respective countries. In this context, he appreciated the Strategic Planning Workshop of AIRD being planned after the TC meeting where TC members from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and IRD expert were invited.

At the business session Mr. Abdul Rahman Shekib, Acting Head of AIRD, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), was unanimously elected as the chairperson of TC-26. His name was proposed by the delegate from Pakistan and was seconded by the delegates from Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The newly elected Chairperson of TC-26 took over the chair and thanked the delegates for electing him. He requested for their active support during his tenure of office and also assured that he would make all out efforts to make his tenure a success.

The main agendas for discussion during the meeting were:

- Follow up action on the suggestions of the 25th Technical Committee Meeting (TC-25).
- Presentation of the EC-27, GC-17, Dhaka Declaration and EC-27 Sub-Committee Report.
- Presentation of Director General's Report on CIRDAP.
- Presentation of the recommendations of CIRDAP Evaluation Committee (CEC) and the issues raised by EC/GC during the last meeting, thereof.
- Discussion on the programme activities of CIRDAP Link Institutions, (CLIs) and identification of scope of collaboration between CIRDAP and CLIs.

- Presentation of one research /action research project and one training programme from each CMC to be implemented in collaboration with CLIs.
- Discussion on ways and means for mobilisation of corpus- fund for attaining self sufficiency of CIRDAP.
- Discussion on utilisation of Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF).
- Discussion on enhancing linkage /networking between CIRDAP and CLIs in the areas of ICT.
- Discussion on completion of International Conference Centre (ICC) with contribution from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) as decided in the GC-17 Meeting, and
- Discussion and finalisation of the outline of the Rural Development Report -2011.

Decisions

Following are the decisions made by the TC-26:

- CIRDAP Secretariat to finalise the EC Sub-Committee Report by incorporating the comments and suggestions from CMCs, and place before the GC-17 Chairperson, through EC 27 Chairperson, as early as possible.
- TC members will give their ideas, as early as possible, for the preparation of the operational strategy of CEC recommendations. Based on these ideas DG CIRDAP will prepare agenda and working papers for the consideration of the next EC/GC meetings in Tehran, Iran.
- Fiji, in collaboration with CIRDAP, will prepare a proposal for a baseline study of the Integrated Rural Development Framework (IRDF) and a feasibility study to establish a national rural development institute in Fiji. Once the fund is available, the study will be conducted jointly by Fiji and CIRDAP.
- CLIs will consider one project for CIRDAP-CLI collaboration while preparing their annual calendar.
- CIRDAP, in consultation with AIRD, will prepare a project proposal for providing services for the ongoing RD programmes of Afghanistan. After interacting with the donors in Kabul, AIRD will convene a meeting of CIRDAP, donors and AIRD for funding. An appropriate

Steering Committee may also be constituted to operationalise the Proposal.

- CIRDAP should utilise the fund received from the six countries as envisaged for demonstrating results so that the remaining CMCs will be convinced to contribute to the fund.
- CIRDAP should prepare a two years plan highlighting cost-benefit analysis of the funds so far accumulated for RCF and present in the next EC/GC meeting.
- The Government of Bangladesh is requested to consider providing the minimum support to make the International Conference Centre functional.
- The Meeting selected 'Comparative Assessment of Decentralisation in CIRDAP Member Countries' as the theme for the RDR-2011 with the following time-frame:
 - i. Country reports received by CIRDAP- February/March-2011
 - ii. Analysis and preparation of Overview paper by CIRDAP- April-June 2011
 - iii. Publish the reports- July 2011
 - iv. RDR-2011 will be presented in the Regional Policy Dialogue in August 2011 in Tehran.

In the meeting the delegate from Sri Lanka expressed interest and willingness to host the twenty-seventh regular meeting of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP in Colombo. At the concluding session, the report of the TC-26 Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar - 2009

Inaugural Session

The CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) was held during 4-5 July 2010 at the Centre's Headquarters in Dhaka. CIARPS is the annual planning and review meeting of CIRDAP where all staff, from top to bottom, participate to critically review the previous year activities of all Divisions, Unit and Sub-Regional Office and also to formulate an annual work plan for the next year. It is a forum to identify, discuss and share the strength and weakness of each divisions and unit and suggest/recommend for refinement and further improvement. It is also the forum to identify relevant and important issues to be raised in the forthcoming policy body meetings of CIRDAP.

CIARPS 2009, inaugurated on 4 July 2010 at the CIRDAP auditorium, was chaired by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP. Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), CIRDAP's Link Institution in Bangladesh, attended the inaugural session as Special Guest. Dr. Majibar Rahman, Special Officer, PRMU, CIRDAP delivered welcome address.

Business Session

The Business Session was moderated by DG, CIRDAP and was participated by all CIRDAP staff-members. The two-day seminar covered the following agenda items:

- Follow-up actions on suggestions and recommendations of CIARPS-2008
- Follow-up actions on the suggestions and decisions of TC-25, EC-27, GC-17 and EC-27 Sub-committee Meetings
- Division-wise presentation on the progress of work during 2009 and up to June 2010 and formulation of work plan for 2010
- Discussions on the project proposals prepared for the Sixteenth Biennium
- Outcome of the Second Ministerial Meeting on RD in Asia-Pacific region and the way forward
- Discussion on issues/agendas for the next TC
- Discussion on Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)
- Formulation of draft outline of Rural Development Report-2011 for presentation in the next TC Meeting

Under Agenda item 1 and 2, Special Officer presented the follow-up actions on CIARPS-2008 and CIRDAP policy body meetings held in January 2010. The house reviewed and analysed the follow-up actions.

Under Agenda item 3, papers were presented by each division and unit, reviewing the past activities and formulating work plan for the future. The presentations came from Research, Pilot Projects, Training, Information and Communication, Administration and Finance and Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit (PRMU) of CIRDAP.

The project proposals prepared for the Sixteenth Biennium, Outcome of the Second Ministerial Meeting on rural development in the Asia-Pacific region, the status of the Regional Cooperation Fund, Draft Outline of RDR-2011 for presentation in the next TC Meeting were presented and discussed. The tentative agendas for the next TC meeting were also discussed.

Some of the major suggestions of CIARPS 2009 are as follows:

- Post of Director Research should be filled up immediately with a suitable candidate.
- As approaches to RD have been changed, it is proper time to go ahead with need-based research and country-specific research. TC members can identify the country needs.
- Country Study Series published have presented the country programmes, priority areas in their country focus studies. CIRDAP can identify the country needs from the studies.
- In the project proposals for Pilot Projects, a monitoring mechanism, intervention process should be attached. CARD has been evolved from the analysis of the projects implemented.
- In implementing pilot projects, local institutions can be involved; their engagement can be made stronger.
- A discussion on seed money was held. PPD has been suggested to prepare a status report on earlier projects with special reference to seed money.
- PPD should see the old projects, and new programmes should be framed in line with Dhaka Declaration.
- Training Division can publish reports on training courses conducted during the year. Necessary cost in this connection can be incurred from CIRDAP General Fund.
- Success stories of the member countries can be documented. CIRDAP can do it as own case studies as well.



- There are specialised training institutions in CMCs. Training CIRDAP staff up from these places can be explored.
- Special training programme to enhance computer skill for all staff-members particularly for the Secretaries, will be arranged.
- There should be a policy to develop the staff capacity.
- CIRDAP should be reflected in the websites of the CMCs. Website capacity has to be increased to accommodate training materials and modules collected from the CLIs.
- A theme for the journal can be developed, and articles can be invited on that theme.
- A Publication Committee can be formed with Director Training as the chair to look after the storage situation, book selling and dissemination, and discarding the old publications.
- As a marketing strategy, CIRDAP can participate in the book fairs.
- A Library Committee with Director Training as the chair can be formed to improve the library situation and remove the old publications.
- The library network has to be widened and improved. The library connection with other libraries in the CMCs can be further build up. Digitisation of the library to be explored.
- A Website Committee to improve CIRDAP website can be formed with Director PPD as the chair.
- CIRDAP management style has to be international standard. For this CIRDAP can go for ISO certification.
- CIRDAP's work culture should be like other contemporary international organisations, with better services.
- The Centre can adopt a better management style and demonstrate its improved work to increase member countries' support.
- CIRDAP Management requested to look into the issue of Children Education Grant and housing support for the General Staff-members.
- Financial record system has to be improved and reports should be more analytical.
- EC, GC and TC reports should be disseminated to the divisions/unit/individuals concerned immediately after the seminar.
- RCF issue should be mobilised.
- Monitoring activities should be strengthened.
- In addition to the Publication, Library and Website Committees, three more committees were formed: ICC committee, Gratuity Committee and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for publications.

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:

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Research

- Second Ministerial Meeting
- Dialogue with Development Partners
- Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Watershed Management for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation
- Synopsis of the Rural Development Report 2009

Focused Areas

- Contemporary RD & PA issues
- RD policies, planning & implementation
- Rural infrastructure and transformation
- Access to land and natural resources
- Understanding the donors
- Sustainable rural livelihoods
- Water issues and watershed management
- Food security
- Knowledge generation
- Regional cooperation



Research Division

Over the last thirty-one years between 1979-2010, the Research Division has undertaken nearly 100 projects covering many areas- the rural poor and disadvantaged groups, gender issues, impact of rural development on poverty reduction via increase in productivity, incomes, and employment generation, agrarian reforms, small farms and cooperatives, poverty monitoring, environment, and macro-policy issues etc.

The research agenda underwent periodic changes reflecting RD & PA issues of contemporary importance and changes in the dynamics of rural poverty in general and RD policy shifts and programme thrusts in CMCs in particular. In response to the changing needs, activities since mid-1990s were directed towards covering impacts of structural adjustment on poverty alleviation, macroeconomic policies and poverty alleviation with special focus on women, microcredit, participation of the poor from grassroots levels, water supply and sanitation, food security and food price structure in South Asia, impacts of Asian financial crisis in South Asia, rural employment generation, rural governance, and access to land.

CIRDAP programmes and activities initiated and completed so far through its Research Division are considered appropriate and useful in varying degrees to its CMCs and other stakeholders. The areas of RD & PA planning and implementation, development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of RD and PA projects, knowledge generation in new areas and insights into problem areas, local-level planning and grassroots participation in PA process, analysing impacts of macro-policies and their impacts at micro-levels on poverty alleviation efforts etc. have been the important areas of focus.

In order to reposition CIRDAP to effectively address the new issues and challenges in the era of globalisation, Research Division identified a host of issues as emerging global concerns and its priority areas for undertaking future research projects. These are mainly pro-poor growth issues and policies, sustainable development, SMEs and rural non-farm activities development, gender budgeting and equity, economic and political decentralisation, participation of the rural poor in decision making and implementation, food security and agricultural growth, rural-urban migration, rural institutions and rural governance, etc. With long experience and good track record, Research Division can be expected to deliver in all these areas subject to availability of much needed funding support, and adequate logistic support from CIRDAP management. Recently completed and ongoing research projects address specific issues in these areas.

A brief review of the activities undertaken during the period (January to December 2010) is given below:

Second Ministerial Meeting

The Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific was jointly organised by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh with assistance from the Government of Japan. It may be mentioned that the First Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia-Pacific region was also jointly organised by Government of Bangladesh and CIRDAP in Dhaka in April 1987. After 20 years of the first Meeting, the CIRDAP member countries felt that there is a need for another Ministerial Meeting of Rural Development in the new context of rural development at national and international level as discussed and decided in the Sixteenth Governing Council (GC-16) meeting in Manila, in 2007 with the hope of repositioning CIRDAP in new policy perspectives, Approaches, dimensions and strategies of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation (RD & PA) to remain contextual and relevant to CMCs.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, inaugurated the Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia the Pacific in the Morning of 27 January 2010 Dhaka H.E. Syed Ashraful Islam, MP, Honourable Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C) and H.E. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP, Honourable State Minister for LGRD&C, Government of Bangladesh, and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP, also addressed the inaugural session, while the welcome address was delivered by Ms. Rokeya Sultana, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperation Division, Ministry of LGRD&C of Bangladesh.

The CIRDAP Member Countries' (CMC) deliberation at Second Ministerial Meeting (SMM) on Rural Development was attended by the policymakers from all the member countries. This high level delegation of policy makers composed of ministers, state ministers and secretaries of the line ministries of the CMCs. Other distinguished guests and participants included representatives from the United Nations, international development partners, selected members of the local civil society.

The inaugural session began with recitation from the Holy Quran, Bible, Tripitak and Gita. H.E. Syed Ashraful Islam, chaired the session.

Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed her gratitude and pleasure for being present at the inaugural session of the She also extended her heartiest welcome to all the guests at the meeting in this historic city of Dhaka. The Prime Minister expressed her belief that as a prime regional institution with a huge network in the field of rural development, CIRDAP has vast potential to offer and to gain from the member countries through mutual collaboration and cooperation. As the Head of the Government, she also appreciated CIRDAP's efforts to explore possibilities and optimise the benefits that could be reaped through close cooperation, involvement and interaction among the CIRDAP member and non-member countries.



H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina releasing CIRDAP Country Study Series at the Second Ministerial Meeting

She reiterated her government's commitment once again towards RD & PA by hosting the in Dhaka. She also expressed her firm optimism that the meeting would give enormous opportunities to CIRDAP to strengthen the ties between countries in the region leading towards contextualising of the rural development and poverty alleviation issues with the current changes and challenges facing the countries due to globalisation.

She urged all concerned to identify the emerging challenges and opportunities of globalisation in the regional context. She mentioned that the threats of climatic change on low-lying countries have already been identified. To face globalisation, investment and export of commodities should be increased. In the wake of increasing natural calamities and globally prevailing economic recession, the food security of the poorest people is seriously at stake. She expressed her support to utilise collective endeavour and wisdom to find out workable solutions to these common problems.

The Prime Minister mentioned about her government's plan to materialise the vision of digital Bangladesh by 2021, including expansion of ICT in the public sector while narrating the government current initiatives at national and international levels. She that Poverty alleviation has been given utmost importance in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The Government has further expanded safety-net coverage as well as volume of support under safety-net programmes, increased agriculture subsidies, ensured uninterrupted power supply for irrigation and introduced National Service System to provide at least one employment per household.

Finally she showed her optimism for the success of the Ministerial Meeting of CIRDAP and wished all to enjoy a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Bangladesh as the valued guests of the country.

The Prime Minister released a special CIRDAP publication brought out on the occasion of the SMM before delivering her inaugural address. Director General, CIRDAP, presented a set of the publication to Her Excellency, which includes a 13 volume set of CIRDAP Country Study 'Assessing Rural Development Initiatives, Exploring Future Opportunities'.

Minister for LGRD&C H.E. Syed Ashraf Islam reiterated the significance of CIRDAP in the context of rural development in Asia and the Pacific. He stated that the Government of Bangladesh is proud to host the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka and extends its fullest support to the Centre in its operationalisation. He mentioned CIRDAP's valuable contribution is the field of rural development throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He hoped that CIRDAP would help in achieving present government's goals of reducing poverty, achieving food self-sufficiency by 2013, building a digital Bangladesh by 2021, and developing most disadvantaged areas of the country. He urged all the countries to work together to achieve sustainable rural development with a target of achieving the millennium development goals by all CMCs and redefining the role of CIRDAP in the new context.

State Minister Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak in his address reaffirmed the government's commitment in achieving RD and PA and mentioned initiatives like 'one household - one farm' which is expected to bring a massive impact in the rural economy. He mentioned that for achieving a 'Digital Bangladesh by 2021', which coincides with the golden jubilee of the country's independence, it is imperative to make optimal exploitation of the available ICT facilities. He deeply appreciated Government of India's support in setting up an ICT Centre at the CIRDAP Headquarters. He also mentioned that ICT would facilitate achieving good governance and poverty alleviation which are among the top five agendas of the present government.

After the Inaugural Session a Plenary session was organised where the country delegates made country statements highlighting the present priorities of the countries based on which a Dhaka Declaration (See Page-08) was prepared and presented on 28th January 2010.

Dialogue with Development Partners

CIRDAP organised a meeting with Donors/Development Partners on 25 January 2010 afternoon following the business session of GC-17 meeting, at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. H.E. Syed Ashrafur Islam, Minister for LGRD&C, Government of Bangladesh and the Chairperson of GC-17 initiated the discussion as Chairperson, while the Vice-Chairperson of GC-17 conducted the session. The Director General of CIRDAP acted as a moderator to assist with the proceedings. The meeting with Donors focused on two pressing issues:

- Supporting result based RD and PA policies at national and regional levels;
- Developing a converging point between Donors and CMCs for capacity building and reviewing process.

The donors' meeting were participated by four major actors in the process - CIRDAP management, delegates from the CMCs, donors/development partners and non-CIRDAP member countries. On behalf of the CIRDAP Secretariat, the Director General, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of GC took part in the session. The donor community was represented by IFAD, the Commonwealth, ICIMOD, ARRDO, ANGOC, DFID, SDC, WFP, USAID, GTZ, FAO and ADB. The participants from non-CIRDAP countries included Australia, Fiji and Japan. However, the meeting with donors did not yield the expected outcome due to thin participation from the donor community despite CIRDAP's all out efforts.



Donors meeting in progress

The Chairperson of the GC-17 expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the donors for their presence in the meeting and underscored the need for this meeting in strengthening CIRDAP towards its new future. In order to attain the desired objective the following issues were emphasised in the deliberation of the Chairperson.

- The importance of building national and international policy contacts.
- The urgent need that CIRDAP be repositioned to remain contextual and relevant.
- The criticality of stakeholders at national and international levels.
- The need for Inter-governmental organisation to be relevant and develop new partnerships with other organisations.
- The necessity of finding ways to work together to ensure result-based development process.

The remarks made by the Vice-Chairperson of the GC-17 highlighted the following points:

- While poverty is a major problem in the CMCs, the critical point is that it has a rural face. The poor people in this region overwhelmingly reside in the rural areas.
- It has to be kept in mind that the conventional theory of poverty alleviation does not work in all circumstances.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP while welcoming the participants from the donor communities, focussed on the thrust areas of the operations of CIRDAP as an inter-governmental body. Addressing the concerns of the Donors, the DG highlighted on CIRDAP's capabilities in the changed context of national, regional and global scenarios.

In his presentation DG, CIRDAP identified a few thrust areas of CIRDAP. These include Democratic Decentralised Good Governance, Local Government Institution, People's Participation, Gender Issues, Women Empowerment and Empowerment of Disadvantaged Groups, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Agrarian Reforms and Land related issues, Ecology and Natural Resource Development, Development Support Communication, Institutional and Infrastructure Development, Resource Development including Human Resources, Rural Employment, Rural Livelihood and Food Security, Climate Change, Macro-economic Policy Issues in Poverty Alleviation, Decentralisation and Local Governance, Micro-Credit, GIS & ICT, and Disaster etc. In addition, the DG focused on new thematic areas for coverage, which include macro and micro economy; natural resources management; demography; human development; infrastructure; rural institutions and regional cooperation.

Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

CIRDAP has been organising Regional Policy Dialogue for the benefit of its member countries on the current issues since 2005. This present Policy Dialogue was the fourth one in the series. The first policy dialogue was convened in 2005 in Dhaka, the second dialogue in Manila, Philippines in 2007 and the third one in Malaysia in 2009.

This year Dialogue was jointly organised by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and CIRDAP with the assistance from the Government of Japan on 26th January 2010 in CIRDAP HQs., coinciding with the Twenty-Seventh Executive Committee and Seventeenth Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP.

The purpose of holding the Regional Policy Dialogue was to engage the policy bodies of CIRDAP in deliberation on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation and addressing them through regional cooperation among CMCs High-level Delegation of the CIRDAP policy bodies was composed of the Ministers and Secretaries of line Ministries in CMCs who came to attend the regular meetings of CIRDAP Policy Body (Executive Committee/Governing Council). Other Distinguished participants and guests included, among others, representatives of IFAD, the Commonwealth, ICIMOD, AARDO, ANGOC, DFID, DSC, WFP, USAID, GTZ, FAO and ADB. The participants from non-CMCs included Australia, Fiji and JAPAN. Specialised Agencies, International Organisations, GOs/NGOs/INGOs, academicians, researchers in policy-matters and specialists who were working in Think-Tanks on policy research and select members of Civil Societies participated in the Policy Dialogue. H.E. Dr. J. Khalghani, Vice-Minister in the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran and Vice-Chair of the Governing Council-17 chaired

and conducted the dialogue. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP welcomed the delegates. There were presentations of seven papers and observations from the GC delegates and open discussions.



Policy Dialogue in session

In the Policy Dialogue, following papers were presented:

- a) Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Asia-Pacific countries: An Overview by Dr. S.K. Singh, Director Training, CIRDAP
- b) An Overview of Rural Development Policies and Programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries with Special Reference to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods by Dr. S. Narayan, IAS, former Adviser and Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- c) Challenges to Sustainable Rural Development: Sharing of Experiences of Bangladesh by Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)
- d) Trends in Climate Change and Implication for the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Asia-Pacific Region and Proactive role of the Government to Mitigate the Adverse Effects on the Rural Poor by Dr. Andreas Schid, Director General, ICIMOD
- d) Agrarian Reforms in India: long-term Concerns and Recent Trends- Some Key Lessons for Countries of the Asia-Pacific:
- e) Major Findings of the Study on Access to Land and Other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in Asia by CIRDAP (Circulated)
- f) Resetting the Role of CIRDAP in the Changing Context by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP

The day-long Policy Dialogue was rolled of with open-house discussion by the participants and observers. The vote of thanks was read by the Director General, CIRDAP.

Observations of the delegates, discussants, and other participants:

- It is important to focus on the livelihoods of the people and therefore, the issue of contributing towards a paradigm shift is critical.
- Dependence on agriculture continues but it has sharply declined due to vulnerability to various risks; and there are limitations in exploring the potential to enhance livelihoods.

- The rural landscape has changed because of market. Market has become prominent, so the issue is how do we work through the market to ensure sustainable livelihood? There is a need to create balance between state intervention and market because agriculture will lose in the long run compared to non-farm sectors. So, it is probably easier to create more employment in non-agricultural sector and the role of subsidy is state intervention.
- An analysis of the policies and programmes implemented for sustainable rural development revealed that conflict exists in the operation of these policies and programmes.
- A major role of CIRDAP that is being articulated and discussed by member countries is that it has to be the spokesperson and add value to the current good practices that are happening in national jurisdiction. The issue here is how you value your members by bridging the knowledge gaps, bringing innovation, adapting to national environment and making sure that grass roots level people are connected.
- In most cases, the donor imposed conditions are not suitable for the countries of this region. Therefore, CIRDAP should explore other possibilities.
- A considerable number of the rural poor do not enter the market as stakeholders. Therefore, the market cannot touch them nor do they reach the market. They will not be able to harvest benefit from the market. So, creating market is not a very good solution right now. So far, an imperfect market is dealt with where access is limited from the producer side as well as the consumer side. So, inadequate market regulation and infrastructure should be developed.
- Another issue is the devastating consequences as a result of the lack of rainfall. Farmers are losing crops and seasonal variations. This situation can contribute towards food insecurity in this region. There are success stories of the watershed development where rain water harvesting single cropping system is converted or transformed into double and multiple harvesting systems.
- The discussion represents the aspiration of individual countries of the kind of role they want.
- As the common platform where all these countries meet, CIRDAP has to address the concerns of the Evaluation Committee. But at the same time, it has been clear from the points of views that came from the developmental partners that this development agenda which is far too large for any single organization, particularly for an organisation, which is limited to research and technical capability, has to be adopted. If the countries do not do anything, it is very difficult for CIRDAP to do anything.
- CIRDAP has done a work that is regional in nature and has tried to fulfill the expectations that have been expressed so far. Now the major task is taking the work to the logical conclusion. Problems are discussed and analysed enough; it is time to emphasise opportunities. It is also important to differentiate between intergovernmental organisation and multilateral organisations. The success of organisations like CIRDAP depends on the commitment of members to the kind of projects that are undertaken and implemented through the organisational boundary.

Recommendations

- Attention should be given to increase employment opportunities in the non-farm sector through converging policies.
- It is required to identify the rural development areas and then identify the dynamics of rural development. Access to land and migration are important issues in this context.

- A diverse portfolio of activities can contribute towards sustainability in rural livelihoods approach. There is a wide scope within existing rural development policies that can be beneficial to the forms of diversification.
- Any change in the existing policies must emphasise people, their assets and activities rather than sectors and their performance as the conventional approach used to do.
- It is important to resolve the conflicting issues; where on the one hand we are saying that as the cost of farming has increased, we have to create opportunities in the non-farm sector and on the other, we are saying that agricultural methods should be prioritised. In this regard, it is important to improve the allocation and distribution of incentives.
- A change in the use of land was strongly recommended. How to re-use land in the agriculture-dependent developing countries should be emphasised. Exchanging more information on the respective experiences of the member countries is also recommended.
- The government has to set framework condition incentives. Unfortunately, in the past, emphasis has been on credit not savings, but this instrument should be developed if rural development in a real sense is focused. Therefore, studies and researches need to be undertaken in individual country settings and contexts; it is due to climate change and due to energy crisis. There is an opportunity to invest in varieties to research the traditional varieties that meet the interest of rural population. There is growing awareness in eco-system services and that each service has to be paid.
- Land records can be digitalised. The hybrid technology both manual as well as computerised is preferable than having 100 remote sensing because the remote sensing is costly. Difficulties in preparing the maps for land recording can be resolved by using technologies.
- The focus should be to act as an intergovernmental organisation that means sharing the policies, programmes and execution models from among the fourteen countries for the needs which are being felt by the citizens of these fourteen countries, rather than taking over or trying to duplicate the works which are being done. The role of CIRDAP should be to take those training material practices which are there in one country and disseminating those according to the other countries' needs.
- In this present global situation, the strategic position of CIRDAP has to be determined to improve conditions of the rural poor people in this region.
- Protecting the Himalayan region has become a challenging task as the Himalayan glaciers are melting. CIRDAP should formulate policy to protect the Himalayan region. Highlighting the opportunity side of climate change for rural development is important.
- Some of the countries in this region are facing humanitarian disastrous situations. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the livelihoods of those people and CIRDAP's role in this situation can prove to be very effective.

Watershed Management for RD and PA

On occasion of the 31st Founding Anniversary of CIRDAP, the Centre organised a national seminar on 'Watershed Management for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in CIRDAP Member Countries' at the Centre's Headquarters, in Dhaka on 6 July 2010. Renowned academicians, intellectuals, think-tanks, rural development practitioners and development professionals in Bangladesh took part in the half-day seminar coordinated by the Research Division of CIRDAP.

The seminar was chaired by Dr. Durga P. Pauyda, Director General of CIRDAP. The keynote presentation on Watershed Management was given by Dr. M.A. Quassem, Chairman of National Disaster Management Advisory Council, Government of Bangladesh. The introduction and objectives of the seminar was presented by Mr. S.M.A. Khan, Programme Officer (Research), CIRDAP.

The objectives of the national seminar were:

- To develop an in-depth understanding of watersheds and generate sufficient knowledge on the complex watershed management programmes;
- To critically review what had been done so far by the regional powers and international organisations in the management of regional watersheds;
- To know about the present challenges in watershed management both at upstream and downstream communities;
- And to see what CIRDAP as a regional organisation can offer and how can it initiate a regional plan for joint watershed management programme with its member states from South Asia i.e. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Mr. S.M.A. Khan, while introducing the seminar topic, emphasised the importance of water for human, animal and plant life. Severe water scarcity is faced in most parts of the world, especially for drinking, washing and agricultural purposes, he said. He added that there is a broad consensus on the need to improve water management practices and to invest more in water sector for more food as this is critical to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Water is a commodity that is particularly vital in South Asia, where most of the countries are still largely agrarian. The first and foremost challenge in South Asia is the vulnerability to water scarcity. Water stress in many parts of the world is increasing in terms of water quantity as well as quality. In response to the emerging water crisis, a new holistic approach to water management has emerged, under the title Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). IWRM is a process, which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. He also explained Green-Blue Water concept in detail.

Dr. Quassem in his key note presentation discussed the watershed management of Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin, focusing particularly on issues relevant to Bangladesh. He dwelt upon the causes of floods, lack of water availability, sedimentation, erosion, salinity, adverse effects of climate change, recharging of groundwater etc.

In his presentation, Dr. Quassem defined watershed in the light of hydrological concept. Watershed or the basin concept is extremely important to understand as it enables people to understand water-related problems like increased flood havoc all over the country, situation of river beds, flash floods in haor areas, increased salinity problem in the coastal areas, he said. Due to inadequate surface water, ground water is extensively used for irrigation - over-extraction of water is causing deterioration of its quality and quantity both. Dilating over the affects of climate change, he added that rapid global warming has been causing fundamental changes to climate. While flood proneness in the monsoon season would increase, reduced water availability in the dry season would become more severe. Accelerated sea level rise would increase salinity intrusion of low-lying areas. It is predicted that 45 cm rise of sea level may inundate about 17 per cent of land by the year 2050 and will result in about 35 million climate refugees from the coastal districts.

He mentioned that a Comprehensive Integrated Watershed Management (CIWM) approach taking on board all the stakeholder countries namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and

Nepal is the way to resolve these problems. Such an approach would increase dry season flows, building reservoirs in upstream leading to hydropower generation, flood moderation, irrigation expansion and navigation, and soil conservation for reducing siltation. To make this approach meaningful, the co-riparian countries should have a common goal (win-win situation), proper institutional arrangements and an enabling environment. Regional cooperation and political willingness are essential for this to work.



During the lively open discussion, many pertinent issues came up and all the participants agreed upon having strategy for mass awareness campaign for co-operation on watershed management to be initiated in the region, especially among the co-riparian countries. There is an undeniable shortage of water in South Asia, precipitated by the changing climate and a tendency of water wastage in the region, and this shortage has the potential to create a major water crisis in the region. As a regional intergovernmental organisation, CIRDAP can be a regional forum for joint watershed management that includes managing the supply, quality and drainage of water. CIRDAP could set up a 'Regional Network Forum for Watershed Management' that may include the preventatives from the CMCs and could send researchers to study water issues through SAARC platform. Institutionalisation would be required for such a large scale watershed management programme. CIRDAP, being an intergovernmental regional organisation, can suggest ways of how CMCs could cooperate on water management issues. CIRDAP can work for advocating cooperation for protection of water source from pollution, watershed degradation or denudation and dealing with problems of drainage such as in the Indus Basin in India and Pakistan.

Watershed management is a multidimensional and complex challenge for the countries of the region, and unless these countries do not come up with some full proof Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP), their fight against RD and PA will not yield any significant results. Deteriorated watersheds need rehabilitation while watersheds with disturbance need prevention or routine care.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG CIRDAP, took part in the open discussion and reiterated the Centre's commitment in assisting national action and building common platforms for rural development and poverty alleviation. He said that without a strong political will and a thorough understanding of water related problems among co-riparian countries, the watershed

management plan cannot be successful. Dr. S.K. Singh, Director (Training), CIRDAP while thanking the participants at the end of the seminar emphasised watershed management as a critical issue that has to be examined and reviewed by the institutions like CIRDAP. He added that CIRDAP can also provide some policy guidelines to deal with precious scarce and controversial commodity like water. He said that the water problem is not only hydrological but also meteorological in nature and it has to be thought in terms of water conservation and harvesting which will help in recharging the ground water.

The seminar was also marked by a TV talk with Dr. S.I. Khan, a water expert from Bangladesh, in line of the theme of the national seminar. During the seminar, Dr. Paudyal also mentioned that Fiji has just joined the CIRDAP family and the regional intergovernmental body now has 15 member states.

Synopsis of the 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) 2009. This biennial report is aimed at keeping the policymakers, planners and practitioners in the field of rural development (RD) in the Asia-Pacific region abreast with current information and analysis of the RD policies and strategies in the region. The report covers all the CMCs, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The RDR 2009 has been prepared focusing on the theme of sustainable rural livelihoods highlighting on changing rural livelihoods and their constraints and opportunities.

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 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.

Policy Issues

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. While the early 90s witnessed commendable progress of agriculture trade, the

performance during the second half of the decade was not impressive. Trade liberalisation affected the domestic market prices of several agricultural commodities, and more so in the plantation crops and oilseeds. The small peasants growing these crops were the most affected. The declining employment elasticity of agricultural growth, the falling total factor productivity, and reduced public investment in irrigation infrastructure have been some of the disturbing features of Indian agriculture in this period. The unemployment levels had gone up during this period.

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. In the Philippines under President Fidel Ramos, Congress passed into law the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernisation Act. The Agriculture and Fisheries modernisation Act (AFMA) of 1997 is a comprehensive legislation that provides for the country's blueprint for the sector's modernisation and rural development. A number of rural development programmes were taken up, benefiting the socially and economically backward classes. In India, Special Poverty alleviation programmes comprising self-employment programmes (IRDP, DWCRA, TRYSEM) and wage employment programmes (NREP, RLEGP, FFW) for the target groups, viz., small and marginal farmers, landless labour, were introduced making some dent in the levels of living of the poor despite leakages and inefficiencies in implementation. Thus, governments in CMCs have implemented many policies and programmes aimed at achieving rural development. Policies were also focused on sectoral development such as agriculture, fisheries, small and cottage industries, etc.

Scope for Regional Cooperation

CIRDAP can 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.

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 have 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. For instance, the emphasis on capital use efficiency/profitability and limited access to different types of capital and technologies for the small producers in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors has made the tiny units of production unviable. While

the private and the NGO sectors have entered in a big way in many spheres of the economy, the local government bodies and the community-based organisations (CBOs), due to their limited capabilities, have yet to emerge as key impacting stake holders. The issues of food security, unemployment, human poverty, various forms of divide and environmental degradation have surfaced as major concerns of the development policymakers and planners alike. Another daunting task is the widening inequalities across regions, ethnic groups, social and economic classes and gender. The CMCs from South Asia have yet to cope up with the new opportunities and challenges of the free trade.

Participation in Discussion/Conference

I. BIDS Discussion

Mr. S. Muhammad Ali Khan, Programme Officer (Research), attended a programme titled 'Agricultural Extension Services in Crop Sector of Bangladesh: Some Suggestions for Improvement' which was held on 8 June 2010 at BIDS in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Programme was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). It was a roundtable discussion, where many participants from governmental and non-governmental organisations participated.

II. PPRC Conference

Mr. S. Muhammad Ali Khan, Programme Officer (Research), participated in a policy conference on 'The Emerging Urban Future Realities and Trade-offs' that was held on 26 June 2010 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Conference was organised by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), a non-governmental organisation.

With the help and support from the World Bank, PPRC has been implementing a long-term study on the emerging urban future for sustainable development in the context of Bangladesh. The participants of the conference were from various governmental and non-governmental organisations and from civil society organisations.

Pilot Projects

- Health Care for Rural School Children
- Field Workshop on Seed Processing for Rural Farmers
- Exposure Visit to Iran
- Collaboration between CIRDAP and JADE

Focused Areas

- Participaion of rural communities in development activities
- Rural resource mobilisation
- Food security by reducing post-harvest losses
- Integrated basic health care programme for rural school children
- Institutional capacity building through more collaboration between CIRDAP and CLIs
- Study visit to promote IRD projects for RD and PA, based on best practices



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.

The pilot projects have been designed in response to the felt-needs of the community with a view to solving the problems faced by the community in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). They serve two objectives. One is to generate field-level knowledge, and the other is to develop interventions which would lead to mitigating the sufferings of the community.

Within the rural development context, pilot projects promote the participation of rural communities in various activities such as food security by reducing post-harvest losses, capacity building for rural farmers through seed processing, storage system and marketing through formal and informal organisations; primary health care for rural school children; human resource development; rural resource mobilisation, strengthening the community-based organisations of the poor, exposure visit to rural development project based on best practices and promoting GO-NGO collaboration on rural development, etc.

Participatory philosophy remains with the basic concept of implementation mechanism of action research. The Centre has done a basic work in evolving the Community Information and Planning System (CIPS), a pioneering methodology for rural and community development. Because of the successful application of CIPS methodology in CIRDAP pilot projects, CIPS methodology was applied to national rural development programme of Lao PDR. CIPS village in Malaysia was evolved as a model village in the country. The CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD) methodology has been an improved version of CIPS by integrating some elements of Project Cycle Management (PCM).

Health Care for Rural School Children

This is an integrated programme with four phases: a) Medical Check-up, b) Knowledge Generation, c) Equipping school children with hygiene care pack, and d) Supply of safe drinking water and sanitation for rural school children through Iran Water Aid Programme and other development partners.

PPD initiated medical check-up, knowledge generation (through brochure and explanation) and equipping with hygiene care pack for rural school children in 2009, and health check-up and supply of safe drinking water for rural school children also continued through the year of 2010.

Now the division has reviewed the health programme for rural school children in certain intervened communities/villages and felt the necessity of incorporating the environment friendly Eco-Sanitation. In fact, safe drinking water, proper sanitation and appropriate hygiene practice are obligatory for sound health.

It has been observed that drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are inadequate or improper in most of the rural areas including schools of Bangladesh. Even the knowledge and practice level are found also low both in school-related individuals (teachers, students and school management committee) and in the families of the localities. As school is a common place of gathering students from surrounding different communities, the possibility is high for the students to get infected by various diseases from each other. In quest of sanitary improvement, proper facilities along with knowledge and practice are necessary to ensure both in schools and families. It is true that students are advanced group in the society and their age tends to learn and practise. So an organised students group can be a force of sanitary

improvement; they can influence their parents and neighbours to have good sanitation facilities as well as disseminate and demonstrate proper knowledge and practice to them. Using those stakes of the student through proper guidance, it is expected that good sanitation condition and hygiene practices both in school and family can be ensured.

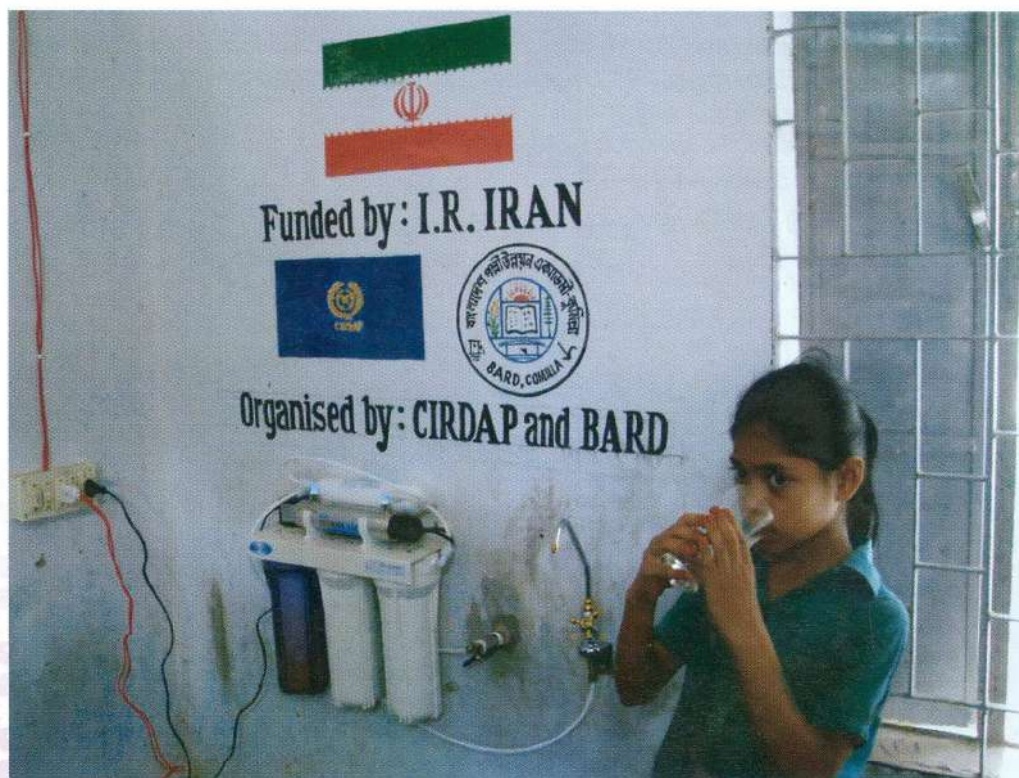
So to have an integrated programme on health care, it requires another project on sanitation in the schools as well as students' houses where they do not have proper sanitation system. It would help students who are using this new model of sanitation at the school, to use the same one at home and motivate their parents.

PPD has implemented 11 projects on medical check up in seven schools of rural areas in Comilla, Tangail, Kishoreganj and Dhaka districts under Health Care Programme title which covered 2000 students.

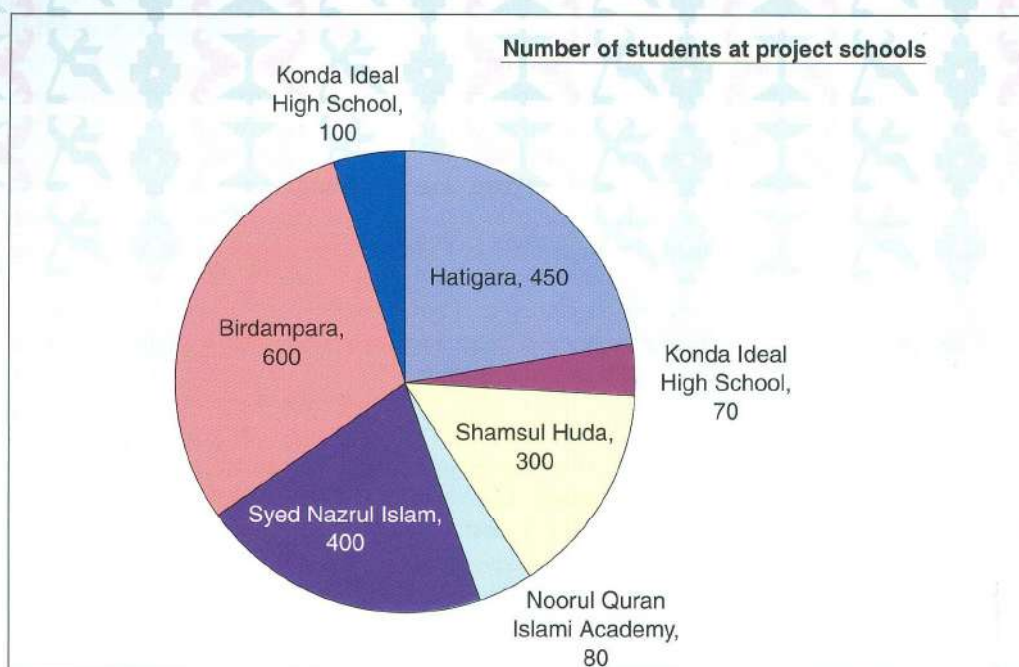
In the year 2010, PPD implemented medical check-up programme at the schools: a) Konda Ideal Kindergarten, b) Konda High School, and c) Noorul Quran Islami Academy under Nagar Konda Village, Savar Upazila, Dhaka District.

These programmes were covered by daily national English Newspaper like The Daily Independent in Bangladesh. The project was funded by CIRDAP and Government of I. R. of Iran.

Supply of safe drinking water and sanitation (Phase 4) is another project which has been implemented in 2010 at Hatigara Govt. Primary School, Kalir Hut Adarsha Sadar Thana, Kotwali, Comilla. This project provided water filters, tube-well, water tank, and pipe connections for the filter, washing room and schoolyard electrical pump and spare parts for two years. This project also was covered by a daily national English newspaper. It is also under process to implement the same project in other schools like Syed Nazrul Islam and Birdampara Govt. Primary School, Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila, Kishoreganj.



Supply of safe drinking water to select rural schools in Bangladesh



The following table indicates the location and the number of project activities:

Sl. No.	Names of Schools	Medical heck-up	Knowledge Generation on Hygiene	Equipping with Hygiene Care Pack	Supply of Safe Drinking Water
1.	Hatigara Govt. Primary School, Kalir Hut Adarsha Sadar Thana, Kotwali, Comilla	Yr. 2009			Yr. 2010
2.	Shamsul Huda Kindergarten School, Bashail, Tangail	Yr. 2009			
3.	Syed Nazrul Islam Govt. Primary School, Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila,	Yr. 2009	Yr. 2009	Yr. 2009	<i>Under Process</i>
4.	Birdampara Govt. Primary School, Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila, Kishoreganj		Yr. 2009	Yr. 2009	<i>Under Process</i>
5.	Konda Ideal Kindergarten & High School, Nagar Konda Village, Savar	Yr. 2010			
6.	Konda Ideal High School, Nagar Konda Village, Savar	Yr. 2010			
7.	Noorul Quran Islami Academy, Nagar Konda Village, Savar	Yr. 2010			

While supplying the safe drinking water, PPD took the help from the Engineer from BARD, Comilla and filter expert from a private sector, who installed the water tank and filter connection and also tube-well set up with motor at Hatigara Government Primary School under Iran Water Aid programme. Filter devise is combined with four kinds of filters, namely, Ultra-Violet (UV), PP filter, ceramic filter and activated carbon filter. So the water produced by this filter is fully safe. The capacity of each devise filter is 50-300 litters per hour. According to the Hatigara School teachers this filter would provide access of safe drinking water for a total of 451 from Class One to Class Five of the primary school, not only during school time but also for home-use purpose. This programme was aimed to keep the rural children safe from water-borne disease and healthy and help them attend the school regularly.

Field Workshop on Seed Processing for Rural Farmers

As follow-up activity of national workshop on 'Reduction of Post-Harvest Agricultural Crops Losses' on 23 November 2009, PPD planned to organise 6 forums in 6 villages for 250 farmers who are real beneficiaries regarding to their problems on seed in 2010. So, a common forum of discussions was floated for farmers on problems and ways and means to solve the problems related to seed preparing, processing, harvesting and storing at grassroots level. The forum included real beneficiaries (farmers) experts, service providers to farmers. In this regard, contacts and discussions were made with the academicians, scientists, policymakers, private service providers to the farmers with a view to solving the problems of farmers and increasing the productivities and yield. In collaboration with BARD, two field workshops on seed processing has already been organised with a total 80 farmers and rural community people in rural areas of CVDP.

The forums which were called field workshops for farmers were organised with an aim to create a common platform of discussions on various problems at field level and ways and means to address for the farmers as well as to the policymakers. PPD, CIRDAP is planning to incorporate the same in the field workshop report for further disseminations by incorporating recommendations of field workshops on seed processing. Consequently, PPD has a plan to organise another National Workshop on Food Security addressing the issues of outputs of field workshop in due course of time. This would help make policy recommendations by incorporating the inputs of the farmers and service providers at the field level.

The whole process and outcome of field workshops have been planned to be discussed in national workshop including policymakers, experts, service providers and farmers.

At Raicho Village

The first step for the field workshop was held on 11 July 2010 for 40 farmers of Raicho Village, Kalir Hut, Comilla. The farmers were member of the community of 'Development Samabaya Samity Ltd.' under 'Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)'. Field workshop was conducted in collaboration with BARD and Lal Teer Seed Limited. The conducting team included Pilot Projects Division, an Intern from Research Division, CIRDAP, Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quader, Joint Director from Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and Dr. Md. Shafiqul Aktar, General Manager, and Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain Sharder, Seed Expert and Area Manager, Lal Teer.



Seed processing workshop at Raicho Village

Joint Director, BARD, made the background introductory statements by referring the collaboration programme among CIRDAP, BARD and Lal Teer Seed Ltd. He said CIRDAP can be a proper organisation to increase knowledge of agriculture and agro-business.

Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director PPD, CIRDAP, as supervisor of team, inaugurated the workshop and explained the purpose of conducting it at farmer and field level. CIRDAP has proposed an Action Research on Seed Processing to real relevant players and beneficiaries, farmers in the field. 'Through this workshop you will be informed about the quality control of seeds, drying, storing, packing and planting of seeds in a proper way and how to recognise the real seeds from the fake ones'.

Dr. Shafiqul Akter, resource person, explained the seed processing at farm level. He gave interesting and important information regarding seed collecting and processing. Some of his points are as follow:

1. Hybrid seed cannot be stored and processed by the farmers themselves, because it requires various steps that are impossible to maintain by the farmers. They can collect and stored non-hybrid seed like pumpkin, cucumber, ladies finger, chilly, etc. For these kind of sensitive activities farmers have to be very much conscious.
2. Two things are important for processing seed: i) seed must be in high quality originally, ii) farmers have to take care very much.
3. For collecting good seed, there should be a separate small land or separate plants that are only for collecting seed for future processing. Farmers have to make sure that their plants are not near to other farms or gardens, so that plants which are being looked after to produce seed cannot be crossed. If they crossed with other plants then their originality would not be remain as the same before and farmers will not get positive result.
4. For seed processing one thing is important that, all kinds of seeds need not to be cleaned with water. It will destroy the quality of the seed.
5. Another important aspect of seed processing is that seed has to be dried in less sun, preferable in the morning till 10 am and in the afternoon. When water becomes less in the seed then it requires two or three hours dry in high temperature. After that the dried seeds need to be kept in such place where water and wind cannot enter easily. That is why it is suggested to keep the dried seed in plastic bags.

During the discussion, some farmers were addressing that there are some fake seeds in the market which were distributed by the name of Lal Teer Seed. Many farmers used Lal Teer Seed, but they are not able to get perfect production crops due to fake seeds. The experts of seed provider described that there is a lot of fake/duplicated seeds being sold in the local market. So Dr. Shafiqul Akter advised the farmers if they get any fake/duplicated by the name or sample of Lal Teer seed immediately to inform the Local Manager and Authorities, so they will take necessary action.

Finally some brochures on seed processing and samples of high quality vegetable seeds were distributed among the participants.

At Panch Kitta Village

Second field workshop on Seed Processing was organised by PPD, CIRDAP for 40 farmers on 27 July 2010 at Panch Kitta Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) Society, Burichong, Comilla in collaboration with BARD and Lal Teer Seed Ltd. Comilla.

Joint Director BARD, as coordinator of project, highlighted some points about the PPD projects during last and current years in Bangladesh as well as the field workshop on Seed Processing. Director, PPD gave his thanks to the CVDP community as well as farmers as participants in the

field workshop. He said that farmers are highly respected in Islam. 'You are producing the food of your people which is very important duty and making your country to be self-reliance on food', he mentioned. He expressed his view mainly two reasons of the workshop:

- i) To increase income of farmers by increasing crops production and producing high quality seeds.

Today Food Security is the main issue in the world mostly in Bangladesh. Density of population day by day is increasing while land is decreasing due to urbanisation and also sea level rise which is covering the arable lands of south of Bangladesh. There are many ways to increase yield for example using fertiliser, machinery, good system irrigation, planting high quality seed and so more. 'We are here to talk about the seed processing which is one of the main factors to have high quality products and enhance production yield'.

- ii) To bring here one of the largest seed providers in Bangladesh to talk face to face whether there is any problem of the seeds. So farmers can share their problems and the representative of seed supplier will explain to make clear. If it is not possible in this meeting, BARD or CIRDAP can follow up the raised issues to solve them.



Seed processing workshop at Panch Kitta Village

The seed expert, first explained about the seed processing, drying, packing, storing, recognising the real and high quality seed out of the fake and low quality one, planting, production of seed which requires isolated farm and some other technical matters to prepare high quality seeds.

The Area Manager of Lal Teer expressed his views saying that if any farmer interested to collect the original seed should verify it from Lal Teer. 'We are always ready to help the farmer to avoid fake seed'. He also emphasised fertile land and proper cultivation.

Farmers were asked to issue their problems according to the seed market and quality. Farmers mentioned that there are some fake seeds in the market in the name of Lal Teer without the expiry date. They raised some questions that when the soil is not proper fertile what they can do to have a good result and also how they find out the fertility of soil which will cost them less amount.

The seed expert gave his contact address and number to them and said, 'when you find any duplicated or fake seed immediately inform us and we will do very prompt action, and for your soil, BRRI and BARI have modern laboratories on this issue which are reliable and cheap'.

While wrapping up the workshop, Director, PPD said that BARD and CIRDAP are always ready to help the farmers generate knowledge and solve their problems based on the duplicated seeds, and thanked all farmers and resource persons.

Exposure Visit to Iran

PPD arranged an exposure Visit of Executive Committee (EC-26) Chairperson, Mrs. Rokaya Sultana to Iran Agricultural Research Centres from 16 to 20 May 2010, where she visited Plant Protection Research Institute - I. Agricultural Toxicology; II. Insect Taxonomy, Museum of Insects: i) Beetles (Coleopterology), ii) Moth and Butterflies (Lepidopterology) and Micro-Insects; III) Vermi-compost Garden Research Centre; IV) Flower Production Garden as a sample of Rural Products of Iran and its showroom; V) Regional Integrated Pest Management Programme in the near east. FAO has launched the programme, aiming to reduce chemical pesticide use, which will contribute to the protection of farming communities, their environment and consumers, and to the expansion of local and export markets for high value crops.

Besides her visit, Mrs. Rokaya Sultana presented a paper titled *Rural Housing in Bangladesh* at 'First International Conference on Rural Settlements: Housing and Fabrics'. She was also interviewed by some journalists and News Agencies. Some parts of the interview were broadcast and published in local language.

Beside the exposure visit, PPD arranged a meeting for Secretary RDCD, GoB with Dr. Khalghani, Deputy Minister for Planning and Economic Affairs of Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture I.R.Iran/Vice Chairperson of EC-27.



Meeting of EC-27 Chairperson Mrs. Rokaya Sultana and Vice-Chairperson Dr. Jafar Khalghani

Collaboration between CIRDAP and JADE

Pilot Projects Division (PPD), CIRDAP has implemented eleven projects on medical check up in seven schools of rural areas in Comilla, Tangail, Kishoreganj and Dhaka districts under the project entitled, 'Health Care Programme for Rural Poor School Children' in Bangladesh, which covered 2000 students in the year of 2010. In Addition, supply of safe drinking water, phase four is under process to implement in other schools (Syed Nazrul Islam and Birdampara Govt. Primary School, Joshudol Union, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila, Kishoreganj) since last year.

It is, therefore, PPD decided to have Integrated Programme on Health Care (IPHC), which requires another project on eco friendly sanitation in rural schools. So, it is decided to select the schools (where PPD already implemented health care projects for rural school children) as well as 200 students' houses, who do not have proper sanitation system in rural Bangladesh.



Discussin meeting between JADE and CIRDAP officials

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and Japan Association of Drainage and Environment (JADE) entered into on 23rd December 2010 at CIRDAP Headquarters, Dhaka, to work together in collaboration on projects related to Ecological Sanitation in the location of CIRDAP member countries. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, and Dr. Akira Sakai, Chairperson, JADE, signed the MoU on behalf of the respective organisations. CIRDAP professionals and few JADE officials from Country Office in Bangladesh were present at the ceremony.

CIRDAP is a regional intergovernmental and autonomous organisation to run as a platform for its member countries, specialised in Rural Development, Poverty Alleviation and functioning with its networking in the region on Integrated Rural Development (IRD) whereas JADE, Japanese based Association (an non-governmental organisation), is giving the highest priority on the benefits of rural people, applying locally appropriate technology by adjusting it with local condition and raising motivation of stakeholders.

This MoU established the general basis for implementing projects on Ecological Sanitation and accomplishing the each party's responsibilities for mutual benefits. In this regard, CIRDAP and JADE may prepare project proposal, seeking fund jointly as collaborative partners in implementing environment friendly sanitation in rural Bangladesh context. It is expected that both the organisations would be benefited from implementing eco-sanitation projects by tabbing each other's specialisation like CIRDAP networking and access in policy level with government(s) and JADE's technical knowledge in implementing on Eco-San toilets. This model of Eco-Sanitation may be replicated to other CIRDAP countries by through understanding of country context and proper discussions with respective CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs), subject to availability of fund from any development partners.

Participation in Conference/Seminar/Workshop/Training

PPD staff-members attended many workshops, seminars and trainings at home and abroad. Some have been described below:

I. ICIMOD Workshop

Director PPD, CIRDAP participated in the two-day workshop, namely 'Himalaya Trails Regional Workshop' on 1st and 2nd March 2010 held by ICIMOD in Kathmandu. The

workshop was held at the ICIMOD Headquarters, with key lecturers from Switzerland, Austria, Netherlands and key tourism stakeholders from Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Director PPD also presented a paper, namely, Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh in RD context. Bangladesh is on the way to develop her tourism status to compete in local and global market. Based on the specific natural phenomena such as Chittagong Hill Tracts, Eco-Tourism can play an important role to develop remote and rural area.

II. International Training Programme on M&E

Director PPD Participated in 'International-Regional Training Programme on Result Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation' from 30 August to September 8, 2010 at NIRD, Hyderabad, India. This was jointly organised by CIRDAP and NIRD.

III. Promoting Global Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction

Director PPD attended a seminar on 'Promoting Global Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction' held on 27 December 2010 in BIDS Conference Room, Dhaka. The speaker of the seminar was Mr. Will Martin, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Development, Development Research Group, World Bank, Washington DC. The abstract of the seminar was - Increasing food self-sufficiency in developing countries by raising import barriers would generally increase poverty and hence reduce food security at the household level.

IV. PKSF Seminar

PKSF organised the seminar on 'Social Safety Net in Bangladesh: Reality and Responsibilities' on 7 November 2010 at Bangbandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka on their 20th Founding Anniversary. Director PPD had a privilege of attending the seminar.

V. Dialogue on Accountability of Activities

The dialogue on 'Accountability of Activities for First Six Months of Second Year (January-June 2010) and Election Manifestation on Digitalisation of Bangladesh' was organised by Dr. Md. Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament (MP), Naogaon-3 (Mohadevpur-Bodolgachi), Rajshahi, and Chief Guest was Architect Yafes Osman, Hon'ble State Minister for Science & Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

This was held at Bodolgachi Community Center on 24 July 2010 and was attended by CIRDAP team led by Mr. Hossein



Director PPD presenting CIRDAP publications to Dr. Akram, MP

Shahbaz, Director Pilot Projects Division, accompanied by APO (Research) and Secretary PPD. The theme of the seminar was on accountabilities to the people by Member of Parliament in connection with the proposed Digitalisation of Union Council and Upazila of Bangladesh.

While addressing the Chief Guest emphasised how to make Bangladesh a digitalised country, as per manifestation which is declared by Hon'ble Prime Minister as well as manifestation of election commitment. The Chief Guest also requested people to be honest, sincere and efficient, saying, then it is possible to make a digital Bangladesh in all respect, and the Government is always ready to help people in any respect to make digitalisation of Union Council, Upazilas of Bangladesh. During the Second Session, the Member of Parliament announced developing works of the Mohadevpur-Bodolgachi in digitalisation of Union Parishad, Upazila.

During wrapping up the seminar, Director PPD handed over to MP CIRDAP publications as well as the book *Where There Is No Doctor*.

VI. Distribution of Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award 1415

Director PPD attended the seminar on 'Distribution of Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award 1415' held on 26 July 2010 at Osmani Memorial Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was Chief Guest on this occasion. Chairperson was Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture; Special Guests were Mr. Abdul Latif Biswas, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Livestock and Dr. Hasan Mahbood, Hon'ble State Minister for Forest & Environment.

The Prime Minister distributed 'Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award 1415' among 32 Researchers, Farmers, Extensioners, Developers and Officials who were selected by the committee from different categories in agriculture field.

VII. Feasibility Study in Narayanganj Area

Ms. Sara Begum Kabori, a Member of Parliament (MP) from Narayanganj-4 Constituency, approached Pilot Projects Division for implementing programmes like Health Check-up, Knowledge Generation on Hygiene Care, and Supply of Safe Drinking Water for the Rural School Children in her constituency. Accordingly, Director PPD, Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, made field visits for feasibility study in three schools in her constituency.

Recent CIRDAP Publications

- Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific, CIRDAP 2010.
- Dialogue with Development Partners, CIRDAP 2010.
- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Lessons and Concerns for CIRDAP Member Countries, CIRDAP 2010.
- CIRDAP Country Study Series (13 Publications). Study Series No. 204-216. 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.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XX, No. 2. December 2010.
- Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD): Volume XX, No. 1. July 2010.
- 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.

Training

Regional Programmes

- Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development
- ComSec- INFRA-CIRDAP Enhancing Rural Governance through Total Rural Management: The Malaysian Experience
- Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices
- Results Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects

Exposure Visits

- Study Visit on Microfinance in Bangladesh
- Study Visit on Water and Sanitation in India

Diploma Programmes

- Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in RD Management
- Diploma Programme in Sustainable Rural Development in Distance Mode

Focused Areas

- RD monitoring and evaluation
- Rural governance
- IRD and PA
- Empowerment
- Performance indicators
- Sustainable agriculture
- Drinking water
- Sanitation
- Developing and application of ICT in rural areas



Training Division

To fulfil the mandate of CIRDAP and to cater to the training needs of CIRDAP member countries, Training Division has a clear focus to assist the member countries in their efforts towards human resource development and capacity building of senior and mid-level functionaries. The training programmes during 2010 were on Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Geographic Information System (GIS); Microfinance; Monitoring and Evaluation; Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation; etc.

Regional Programmes

In order to encourage and motivate the developing countries to make real efforts to alleviate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region through capacity building, the Government of India sponsored a number of training programmes through its training institutions. In this line, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has been supporting the CIRDAP member countries the last several years for capacity building initiatives in the field of Rural Development. A wide variety of programmes - about nine in number- is being offered under the NIRD-CIRDAP collaboration every year. The National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), one of the premier training institutes of international reputation, has been catering to the training needs of many developing countries, particularly in the field of participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes and sustainable development efforts during the last three decades.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development

In a series of NIRD-CIRDAP collaborative trainings, one programme titled 'Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes' was held at NIRD Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh from 22 February-03 March 2010. The training was attended by 20 senior-level officers and development functionaries from 13 CIRDAP countries. The course team comprised Dr. S. Rajakutty, Professor and Head, and Dr. R. Chinnadurai, Assistant Professor from NIRD and Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division from CIRDAP. The programme was designed keeping in view the common requirements for monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes within the decentralised framework.

Objectives

The programme was organised with the following objectives:

- To discuss the country specific models and approaches of development programmes and M&E mechanism.
- To discuss the concepts, strategies and approaches of Monitoring and Evaluation.
- To impart skills and knowledge on the participatory methods and techniques on Monitoring and Evaluation.
- To discuss the Indian experiences on M&E on rural development programmes.

Inauguration

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Mathew C. Kunnumkal, Director General, NIRD. In his inaugural address, he mentioned that this India-supported programme has become an important flagship programme of CIRDAP, and there has always been a good demand for these programmes. 'At this juncture, I would like to complement and congratulate the CIRDAP for co-partnering this venture.' He also pointed out that it is also a matter of concern that large number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region are in low ranking in terms of HDI.

Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP and Dr. S. Rajakutty, Professor and Head, Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (CPME), NIRD, Hyderabad, India, also spoke on the occasion.

Field Visit

As a part of the training, the participants were taken to villages to understand and to get practical exposure on the various monitoring mechanism functioning in implementation of RD programmes. One day the participants took part in the social audit process at Yellareddypet Village in Siddhipet Mandal of Karim Nagar District. The participants were interestingly interacted with the people as well as social audit committee members and also contributed to amicable solutions to the problems emerged in the social audit meeting. It was a new and strange experience for the participants because social audit was being new for them.

A study tour was also arranged to give further field exposure on the official mechanism of M&E. The study tour was carried out in Karnataka. The participants were taken to few villages in Mysore District and interacted with women self-help group (SHG) members who are working for self-reliance and empowerment. The participants interacted with them and shared information and experience.

The participants were also taken to Bio-Technology Extension Centre of Bangalore Agriculture University and interacted with the professors and field staffs on Bio-Fertilisers Application and Sustainable Cultivation Process. A presentation and discussion on M&E was held with Chief Executive Officer of Mysore Zila Panchayat at her office.

Valedictory Session

Valedictory address was given by Dr. M.V. Rao, Deputy Director General of NIRD. He emphasised that if there is social audit, there will be transparency in the developmental programmes. People can know how the programme is done and its merit and demerits. He told that most of the Asian countries are facing common problem. Those problems are to be addressed jointly. He opined that we are development administrators and without development what is administration? He hoped that as the participants learnt lessons from this training programme, they will be able to impart their knowledge back home. Later Dr. Rao awarded certificates to the participants.



Group photograph of the participants

Programme Evaluation

The programme was evaluated on line by the participants. Participants gave their feedback of positive appreciation. The overall Effectiveness of the programme was rated at 80 per cent; Course Contents 80 per cent; Practical Orientation 76 per cent; Training Methods 76 percent; Speaker Effectiveness 86 per cent; Impact on the participants 93 per cent; Skill 80 per cent; and Attitudinal Change 80 per cent.

ComSec- INFRA-CIRDAP Enhancing Rural Governance through Total Rural Management: The Malaysian Experience

Malaysia's broad-based development approach includes developing rural institutions that promotes, builds and harnesses the capacities and capabilities of the rural populace. The outcome of these enabling environments is that the rural people totally understand their role and become effective partners with the government in improving their livelihoods.

With an impressive track record in developing the rural areas and the rural population, Malaysia can certainly share its experience with other countries with the hope that the sharing of knowledge can further facilitate rural development in the respective countries.

Objectives

The objectives of the programme were:

- To share Malaysia's experience in managing rural development;
- To understand rural governance and its practices in Malaysia's context; and
- To exchange and share views and best practices on rural governance among the participants of the programme.

The programme was sponsored by ComSec and INFRA, particularly for Commonwealth Secretariat member countries. Being a collaborative partner of CIRDAP, Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA) requested CIRDAP to collaborate in organising the above mentioned training programme and CIRDAP agreed in principle. CIRDAP invited nominations from all CMCs, but only Afghanistan and Philippines nominated candidates, and three participants attended the programme. The programme was held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 20 March 2010.

Geo-informatics Applications in RD for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices

CIRDAP, in collaboration with NIRD, organised an International Training Programme on 'Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices ' from 22 to 31 March 2010. The programme was attended by 15 officers from nine countries, namely, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

Objectives

The objectives of the programme were:

1. To examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in rural development, natural resources management and environment in the countries of the regions; to review current use of GIS and IT in rural development and identify the potential areas where GIS and It related application can play an effective role.

2. To exchange ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing the GIS/IT technologies, assess the feasibility of meeting the regional needs based on existing manpower, software, hardware and data availability and assess the training needs and resources requirements at the country level.

Inauguration

In the inauguration of the programme, Dr S K Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, outlined objectives of the programme as well as its relevance in the current context. He suggested them to discuss their country specific ICT applications if any. V. Madhava Rao, Head, CGIRD, and NIRD briefed that India has done pioneering efforts in these particular fields both in GIS and IT. In India, the use and development of GIS packages are on par with international standards and packages. The GIS techniques are extensively employed in a number of rural development fields. He also affirmed that the programme would be provided enormous knowledge for the participants in the particular fields of Geo-informatics application in rural areas and disaster management of India's experiences.

Course Design

The duration of the programme was ten days. Out of which seven days were spent in classroom-cum-field visit sessions at the Institute. And the remaining three days was proposed for study tour programme to Karnataka State where ICT initiatives /projects have made a significant contribution in Land Records, e-Governance, Tele-medicine and show them the state-of-art-IT hub to understand and know the grassroots realities.

Relevant topics and themes concerning the objectives of the programme were discussed by renowned experts in the field of IT. Dr S K Singh, Director, CIRDAP, delivered a lecture on Rural Livelihoods in Asia-Pacific, an Overview. He explained the overall concepts of rural development, rural livelihoods and current diversification pattern. He has compared the rural livelihoods categories among the CIRDAP member's countries

Field Visit

Apart from the classroom session, the participants were visited 'Andhra Pradesh Disaster Management Society' (APSDMS) headquarters and observed the centre's activity on Andhra Pradesh Cyclone Hazard Mitigation Project; real time early warning modelling system.



Participants observing the video-conferencing studio at SIRD

The project was to provide a system that minimises impacts due to cyclone natural disasters, as well as enhances sustainable development of the coastal zone. The participants were briefed by the Director General of the centre on the early warning system focusing on the short-term and long-term reduction of coastal vulnerability to cyclonic disasters.

The participants were taken to Mysore and 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 State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD). Dr. Amita Prasad, Director General of SIRD received the participants and briefed them about institute's activities, especially in video-conferencing programme. The participants had opportunities to learn the video-conferencing process in the studio.

Valedictory Session

In the valedictory session, Mathew C. Kunnunkal, IAS, Director General, NIRD, interacted with the participants and taken their views about the programme. The participants expressed happiness and said the programme is excellent and well coordinated. The DG informed the participants that India is a multi-faceted country with lots of ICT projects ongoing at different levels of implementation by government and other agencies, in order to provide better quality of life/delivery of services to the common citizen. Apart from this, India is also emerging as leader in IT sector. He also emphasised that IT is not going to result in immediate impact, but one has to thoroughly understand its processes for right kind of application to avail the desired benefits.

Mr. Mathew C. Kunnunkal distributed the certificates. The programme was coordinated by Dr. V. Madhava Rao, Dr. P. Kesava Rao and Dr. R. R. Hermon from NIRD and Dr. S. K. Singh and Ms. Khin Mar Oo from CIRDAP.

Results Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation

CIRDAP and NIRD organised an International Training Programme on 'Results Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation', from 30 August to 08 September 2010. The programme was attended by 18 officers from 11 countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The programme was very important to CIRDAP member countries as there was a necessity to develop proper Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools and to effectively monitor the progress and take collective actions.

Objective

The objective of the training programme was to develop a logical framework pre- and post-project effects and impacts, both direct/indirect and social/economic factors. The highlights of the programme were to enhance the capabilities of the development functionaries/project managers to identify and develop performance indicators and to improve the trainees' ability to identify, collect and analyse relevant data on various performance indicators.

Course Design

The duration of the programme was ten days. Out of which seven days were spent in classroom-cum-field visit sessions at the Institute. And the remaining three days was proposed for study tour programme to Tamil Nadu State and Karnataka State. In these states Rural Development initiatives/projects have made a significant contribution to livelihoods of local rural people.

The participants were given knowledge by eminent resources persons, especially in the areas of Participatory monitoring and evaluation, Results management, Results and impact assessment, Logical framework and indicators - project design, Development of project indicators, Data collection and analysis, Management by performance and monitoring, Poverty and environmental assessment etc. Apart from that, the project monitoring and evaluation systems, implementation and experience of respective countries were shared and discussed.

Field Visit

Apart from the classroom discussions, the participants were taken to Bhoodan Pochampally Village, Naldonda District of Andhra Pradesh State where they had interaction with the members of Gram Panchayath to see the ground level development activities and management of rural local government system by using e-Governance.

The participants had visited village tourism complex, which was the part of activities taken by local governance from the same village. They also had visited a renowned regional research station, Paiyur, and Tamilnadu Agricultural University. This station innovated the 'Precision Farming Technique' for irrigated farming area and being transferred to the local farmers. Participants had visited farmers' fields and seen that adopted farmers are significantly benefited by practising this new technique. While participants were briefed about Precision Farming Technique, they were very amazed to know about the effectiveness of Techniques and they appreciated the researchers from the Station as well. The participants had also visited District Rural Development Agency of Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu State. They had very useful discussions with the Chairperson, Project Director and officials in the management of RD programmes.

Valedictory Session

In the valedictory session, Mathew C. Kunnunkal, IAS, Director General, NIRD, interacted with the participants. As special gift from CIRDAP to NIRD, Dr. S K Singh, Director of CIRDAP, has given CIRDAP published books, namely, Challenging Rural Livelihoods in CIRDAP Member Countries, Annual Report 2009 and CIRDAP Development Digest, etc. DG, NIRD expressed thanks for receiving prestigious books from CIRDAP, and said that these publications were highly useful for the scholar as well as for faculty members from NIRD.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. B. Chakravarty, Dr. R. Chinnaduri from NIRD and Dr. S. K. Singh and Ms. Khin Mar Oo from CIRDAP.



Group photo of the participants

Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects

CIRDAP, in collaboration with NIRD, organised the training programme on 'Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects' to familiarise and equip the participants with the strategies and approaches relevant to the management of drinking water and sanitation projects in rural areas, especially in CIRDAP countries. As a kind gesture to promote regional cooperation and capacity building of rural development functionaries of the CMCs, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, sponsored the training programme.

This programme was conducted in association with the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka, a link institute of CIRDAP in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The programme was held for 10 days of duration from 01 to 10 November 2010 at HARTI. The programme was attended by 22 senior officers from 11 countries namely, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.



Dr. S.K. Singh (R) presenting CIRDAP publications to Hon'ble Minister of Sri Lanka

Inauguration

The training programme was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister for Water Supply and Drainage, Government of Sri Lanka. Inaugural session was also graced by K.E. Karunathilake, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka; A. Abeygunasekara, Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage, Government of Sri Lanka; Mathew C. Kunnumkal, IAS, Director General, NIRD, Hyderabad, India; Lalith Kantha Jayasekara, Director, HARTI; Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP; Dr. P. Siva Ram, Course Coordinator; and M.M.M. Aheeyar, Local Coordinator, also spoke at the inaugural function.

Field Visit

Out of ten days duration of the programme, six days were spent in classroom sessions at the Institute, and the remaining four days were study visit to different ongoing projects in Kandy. During the visit, participants visited Kalutuwawa Drinking Water Reservoir, Community Managed Drinking Water Projects at Galigamuwa, Kegalle, Greater Kandy Water Supply Project and Hantana Housing Scheme Sewerage Treatment Plant, Kandy.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was presided over by the Director, HARTI. During valedictory session, Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS, Registrar and Director Administration, NIRD, Hyderabad was also present. During this session, the participants from different countries gave feedback about the programme. The participant from Fiji said that he found it was a very good programme and he learned a lot which would be utilised in the implementation of water and sanitation programme in the country. He gained very good experience and shared knowledge with fellow participants. The participants from India spoke very high about CIRDAP and NIRD and they thanked HARTI, CIRDAP and NIRD for successfully conducting the programme, covering various aspects of water and sanitation.

The participant from Malaysia mentioned that the participants had different types of demand but the organisers i.e., CIRDAP, NIRD and HARTI fulfilled all the demands. She highly appreciated the academic contents of the programme. The participants from Sri Lanka

mentioned that the programme was well structured and very well organised. Dr. P. Sriva Ram, Coordinator from NIRD, expressed his satisfaction in organising this training programme successfully.



Director HARTI giving away the certificates

Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, thanked the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for sponsoring this important training programme. Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS, Registrar and Director Administration, NIRD, thanked CIRDAP, NIRD and HARTI for their efforts to successfully organise the programme. He thanked Government of Sri Lanka for providing all support in organising the programme. He expressed his satisfaction to become the part of this important training programme. M.M.M. Aheyar, Local Coordinator, HARTI, proposed vote of thanks.

Exposure Visits

Study Visit on Microfinance in Bangladesh

Eleven senior Indian officials from BIRD, NABARD, SIDBI and MFIs visited Bangladesh on 05-12 February 2010 to get microcredit experience in Bangladesh. CIRDAP, in collaboration with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India, conducted the Training-cum-Exposure Visit programme. The programme activities of the visit mainly focused on exposure of participants to the individual/group activities of microcredit at the grassroots level for learning and exchanging information. These include briefing and interaction with the groups of beneficiaries. The programme was formally inaugurated by Dr. Durga P Paudyal, Director General, and CIRDAP on 5 February 2010 at the CIRDAP Headquarters. The officials had classroom sessions where professionals from CIRDAP, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC, and BURO Bangladesh briefed the delegates about the microcredit operation in Bangladesh.

Field Visit

The participants were taken to the Association for Social Development (ASA) HQs, Grameen Bank HQs, and BRAC HQs within the Dhaka city and BURO office at Tangail and BARD at Comilla. The participants were briefed by the responsible officers from those institutions. A special meeting was arranged with Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, President of ASA. He highlighted some key points of ASA that are essential for good recovery. The participants raised their queries, especially on bank's credit policy and its network.

To sharpen the knowledge of the participants, field visits were organised to Grameen Bank, ASA, BURO 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 Jaypur village, Tangail.

Subsequently, the participants visited Adrasha Sader Comilla, which was one of rural poverty alleviation programme conducted by BRDB. The participants took keen interest in learning the Sader programme like group formation, microcredit, income-generating activities, and capacity building programmes.

On the way to going Comilla, JICA project site at Titas Upazila of Comilla District was selected for observation. Hiroki Watanabe, expert from JICA briefed the participants about the project. The participants also visited the KOICA and BARD cooperation project site.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session of the programme was held on 11 February 2010 with Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, DG, CIRDAP in the chair. DG hoped that experiences gained by the delegates would be very useful in their back home situation. He assured that CIRDAP would always be there to serve its members countries in any effort of RD and PA.



Group photograph

Dr S K Singh, Director, CIRDAP and Sunil Kumar, team leader, also spoke on the occasion. Some of the delegates expressed their happiness and feedback on the exposure visit. They emphasised that they were keen to learn detailed handling procedure of MFIs in Bangladesh context. Dr Singh affirmed that next time CIRDAP can consider the more effective ways for insight study on microcredit procedure of MFIs; adequate time schedule is to be considered in this regard. The Director General distributed the certificates to the participants.

Study Visit on Water and Sanitation in India

The DANIDA supported programme on Water Supply and Sanitation in Bangladesh has sponsored a Training-cum-Exposure Visit to CIRDAP in order to build capacity of different stakeholders engaged in this programme. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB), Ministry of Local Government, has been lamenting Danida programme.

The Training Division of CIRDAP organised this programme from 21 to 30 April 2010 in India, and the participants visited two states of India, namely, West Bengal and Kerala. This programme was organised with a view to have handholding experience on management of water and sanitation programme along with other rural development programmes in India. There were 11 participants drawn from policy level to the grassroots level practitioners including chairpersons of Union Parishads.

Objectives

The objectives of the exposure visit were:

- To study and examine rural local government system and decentralised water supply and sanitation project management system in India.
- To provide understanding of decentralised Indian grassroots institutions responsible for planning and implementation of rural water supply and sanitation system, inter alia, the rural development programmes.
- To enable the participants to gain insights to improve the planning and implementation of programmes in which they are engaged.

Field Visit

The participants were taken to West Bengal where they had interaction with the State Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Kalyani, Nadia District, to get the idea of policies and programmes of the government directed towards water supply and sanitation. The participants were also given inputs about the functioning of rural local government system, i.e., Panchayati Raj in India and involvement of these institutions in the programme.

The participants were taken for field visit to Panchayat Samity at the Block Level at Memari I and II Panchayat Samiti. The participants had very useful discussions with the Chairperson of the Panchayat Samity along with the elected members and officials in the management of rural development programmes. They also had visited a very important project called Kashiara Sajaldhara Prokalpa in Gantar II Gram Panchayat. This programme is unique in the sense that it is completely participatory and it provides safe drinking water to the people covering entire village. This project is now managed by the villagers in consultation with the Village Panchayat.

They have also seen Rain Water Harvesting Unit in Dalewi Gram Panchayat and also visited Solid Liquid Waste Management Project. The participants also had understanding about the functioning of the Standing Committees of the Gram Panchayat and process of decision making and preparation of perspective plans. The Standing Committee in Panchayats of West Bengal is very strong and has executive power.



Briefing during field visit

The participants then visited Kerala and had discussions with the Senior Faculty of Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur, Kerala. The participants were given a vivid and comparative picture about the functioning of rural local government system i.e., Panchayati Raj in two different states.

The participants were taken to Mannarkkad Block Panchayat in Palakkad District. They had discussion with district level elected representatives and officials, and they were also taken to various schemes of rural development including water and sanitation in the Village Panchayat. As a part of the study visit, the participants had also visited Rain Water Harvesting Project and Waste Management in the village. The village has received Nirmal Puraskar Reward.

Post-Graduate Diploma Programme

RD Management

Under the regional cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, as a good-will gesture, has offered to sponsor five slots to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) in one year Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (3rd Batch - 2010) in order to develop capacities of rural development managers.

This is a new land mark in the activities of the Training Division. The programme was announced and five nominees from the CMCs have been selected on the prescribed norms and eligibility criteria. While selecting candidates from the CMCs, preference was given to the CIRDAP Link Institution (CLI) faculty. The participating countries as CIRDAP nominees are from Bangladesh, Fiji, Myanmar and Sri Lanka in this batch. This programme commenced from August 2010 and was conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India.

This programme is important in view of the fact that there is a dire need of Rural Development professionals in most of the countries in Asia-Pacific region, and it will provide better competence to deal with planning and implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programmes. It will also help develop management insights, analysis skills and inculcate attitudes, values and ethics. It has given opportunity to the member countries to avail and build capabilities and competence of their functionaries.



PGDRDM - 3rd batch (2010): CIRDAP candidates from Fiji, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar

Diploma Programme

Sustainable Rural Development in Distance Mode

The National Institute of Rural Development, the link institute of CIRDAP in India, has launched one year Diploma Programme in 'Sustainable Rural Development in Distance Mode' in 2010. The purpose of the programme is to provide an opportunity to strengthen and develop skills and knowledge base in rural development and poverty alleviation for such person who cannot join as a regular student. This programme focuses on various facets of rural development with wide coverage.

Training Division has coordinated and canvassed this programme to all member countries who are desirous of obtaining certificates through the distance mode to join this programme.

Participation in Conference/Seminar/Workshop/Training

Training Division staff-members attended many conferences, workshops and seminars at home and abroad. Some have been presented below:

I. Rural Settlement: Housing and Fabrics

Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, was invited as an International Expert to participate in the 'First International Conference on Rural Settlement: Housing and Fabrics' organised by Housing Foundation of Iran in Tehran. The conference was held on 18-19 May 2010.

The conference theme was to discuss various critical issues pertaining to rural housing, particularly planning and designing of rural housing and settlement, economics of rural housing and its implication on governance. Dr. S.K. Singh has presented a paper titled 'Rural Housing and Institutional Finance in the Sub-theme of Rural Housing Economics'. Subsequently, he chaired the session on Rural Housing Economics.



Dr. Singh making his presentation

Dr. Singh was also requested to conduct a workshop on 19 May 2010 on the theme of 'Economics of Rural Settlement'. The recommendations of the workshop brought many ground realities which has a lot of implications on the policy formulation and future direction.

He was interviewed by two Television channels of Tehran and leading newspaper reporters on Rural Housing scheme of Iran. He mentioned that the outcome of the conference has ramifications on policy, planning and implementation of rural housing project in Iran. He highlighted that housing is most important basic needs of a civilised life for human survival, and possession of a house is a social status in any society. It is more significant for the rural poor since it gives dignity, makes social change in their existence and their identity in the society.

Dr. Singh pointed out that various papers presented in the conference brought about the ground realities of rural settlement in Iran. A pertinent issue emerged that it lacks

participation of people in the process of implementation of rural housing scheme. He further emphasised that there is a need to strengthen rural local government in Iran, and the task of rural housing should be entrusted to the rural local government so that it will have more pragmatic approach. The outcome of the workshop was very informative to gather variety of low-cost housing structural designs from experts.

II. AARDO Programme on Microcredit

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, invited Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, to address the participants of the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) international training programme on Microcredit on 17-18 May 2010 at BARD. He delivered two lectures on two topics entitled 'Complementary and Supplementary Role of NGOs in Rural Development through Local Governance' and 'Rural Development in Select Asian Countries'.

In course of discussion, Dr. Singh pointed out that evidently, among the countries of Asia-Pacific region, the portfolio of Rural Development has multiplied substantially over a period of time; however, the existing administrative apparatus finds difficulties in delivering services to the rural poor for obvious reasons; thus, it essentially calls for expanding networking with civil society organisations since these institutions have emerged as effective institutions for poverty alleviation interventions, expanded their activities enormously and are becoming effective change agents in the society.

He also mentioned that several rural development and poverty alleviation programmes are in vogue; it is necessary to have 'convergence' and empower people to improve capabilities, strengthen decentralised democratically elected rural local government in order to have better access to basic social services.

III. Commonwealth Programme

BARD requested Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, to address the participants of the Commonwealth Secretariat international training programme on 'Managing Change in Rural Government and Rural Development' held on 10-18 April 2010 at BARD campus. While delivering his speech, Dr. Singh shared experiences of rural development approaches and strategies to strengthen local government system in the countries of Asia-Pacific region.

IV. BARD & RDA Annual Planning Conference

Dr. S.K. Singh attended the 44th Annual Planning Conference (2010-11) of BARD, Comilla and also Chaired the session on Training. He also attended the 20th Annual Planning Conference of RDA, Bogra held on 5-6 August 2010 at RDA campus and chaired the session on Training.

Information and Communication

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

Focused Areas

- Publications on SMM
- Disseminating knowledge
- Smooth functioning of ICT services
- Uploading full text of CIRDAP publications
- Website continuing to get linked
- Publication exchange programme expanding
- Continent-wise folders of rural development materials
- Photographic covering of all major events
- Strengthening public relations to upgrade Centre's image



Information and Communication Division

During the reporting period, Information and Communication Division (ICD) played its role of being the focal point of information dissemination for the Centre. The division brought out publications and documentations, met various information requirements, provided library services, maintained and ensured public relations, and provided IT services to the Centre regularly.

The proposal for establishing the ICT Centre at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) was approved by the Government of India, for which the division acts as the focal point. Three important committees related to the division constituted as follow-up of the CIARPS-09, worked quite extensively and were able to come up with concrete suggestions and recommendations which are being implemented by the division.

The division carried out its activities in the following categories:

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

Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

Second Ministerial Meeting has been a milestone for CIRDAP in the year 2010. Covering the events of SMM, ICD brought out three important publications, namely:

1. Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia And the Pacific (Special Report-1)
2. Dialogue with Development Partners (CIRDAP Study Series No. 219)
3. Sustainable Rural Livelihoods - Lessons and Concerns for CIRDAP Member Countries (Policy Dialogue Report)

These reports were widely distributed, and efforts were undertaken to publicise them for wider dissemination.

In addition to these occasional reports, ICD prepared and published the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (July and December 2010 issues), CIRDAP Development Digest CDD (120, 121, 122), Annual Report 2009. The division also finalised and printed other publications, like, Report of the GC-17 Meeting, Report of the EC-27 Meeting, TC-25 Report, Report of CIARPS 2008, Folder for TC-26 etc.

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) continued its good reputation during the year. Full text and/or abstracts of APJORD articles can be downloaded from several international websites. ICD is regularly receiving many articles from researchers from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The division disseminated the publications to the concerned and target groups and to the exchange list members.

Publication Committee

After the last CIARPS-09, the Publication Committee was constituted and headed by the Director Training who was also the Director in charge of ICD.

Director Training	Chairperson
PO (Training)	Member
PO (Research)	Member co-opted
AICO	Member
Librarian	Member
Publication Assistant	Member Secretary
Computer Operator	Member co-opted

The seven-members Committee sat several times to discuss the important issues regarding the publications of CIRDAP. To sharpen the qualitative and quantitative aspects and the management processes of publications, the Committee dealt with the issues like better storage, classification, disposing of old publications, maintaining archives, updating distribution list and developing marketing strategies.

The Committee made several recommendations according to the terms of reference, and the final report was submitted to the Director General. Accordingly the follow-up actions are being undertaken by ICD.

TAG

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for publications was revived to oversee the publications and other outputs of the Centre. The Group consists of all division heads and is considered as the technical authority for clearing all CIRDAP outputs including publications.

The Group consisted of:

Director (Training)	Chairperson
Director (PPD)	Member
Director / PO (Research)	Member
Director / AICO (ICD)	Member Secretary

TAG started functioning and has considered and cleared several publications.

CIRDAP Website

All recent CIRDAP publications were uploaded on the CIRDAP website. Pictures, News and Press Releases of latest CIRDAP events as well as announcements were regularly uploaded in the site. The site is visited by many visitors from around the globe as measured by the site monitor.

Website Committee

A Website Committee was constituted as a follow-up of the last CIARPS, headed by the Director PPD. The Website Committee consisted of:

Director (PPD)	Chairperson
PO (Training)	Member
APO (Research)	Member
APO (PPD)	Member
AICO	Member
Publication Assistant	Member
CP	Member Secretary

The Committee was formed to review and update the existing materials, suggest ways to make the website more interactive and useful and relevant to present context. The Committee, comprising representatives from all divisions, observed that there is no policy for the CIRDAP website. Hence the Committee chaired by Director, PPD suggested formulating a website policy for the centre. The Committee sat several times and framed a website policy of CIRDAP which will act as a guideline for updating, upgrading and maintaining the website in future.

Accordingly, the policy was prepared and finalised with approval from the Director General, CIRDAP. The URL is www.cirdap.org.sg

ICT Support and Services

During this period ICD provided the necessary ICT support services to the organisation. Internal training for the staff was organised on various computer applications and software.

One additional scanner and one laser printer were added to the Centre's existing computer network system. The Local Area Network (LAN) system functioned through structure cabling. Almost all the users got access to the core facilities (e.g. internet browsing, e-mail, web mail, e-learning etc.) and had file-sharing facility through the network. Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals were also maintained throughout this period.

CIRDAP operates its web-based activities under two domains namely www.cirdap.org.sg and www.cirdap.org. About 40 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professionals were being maintained. New e-mail accounts were provided to the new staff members replacing accounts of outgoing staff. While the CIRDAP website and e-commerce site was maintained with ASEAN Secretariat, Indonesia. The CIRDAP domain and mail server run in collaboration with Google and AccessTEL (BD) Ltd.

An important milestone for the Centre during this period was achieved as the Government of India approved the revised proposal for establishing the ICT Centre at the newly built CICC



H.E. Dr. C.P. Joshi (C) speaking at the ceremony. Also seen are H.E. Jahangir K. Nanak (R) and Dr. Paudyal (L)

Initiation of ICT Centre at CIRDAP

H.E. Shri C.P. Joshi, Honourable Minister for Rural Development and Minister for Panchayati Raj, Government of India, initiated the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre at the CIRDAP headquarters in on the evening of 26 January 2010. The proposed ICT Centre will be set up at the newly constructed CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) at the same premises. H.E. Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Minister of State for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Government of Bangladesh, was also present at the brief ceremony.

Over the recent years, the demand for harnessing the potentials of ICT for Rural Development has increased many-folds. There are also examples in the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMDs), of how ICT applications have improved the lives and livelihoods of the rural poor. CIRDAP, as a Centre committed to provide information and communication services for rural development to its member countries, needs to strengthen its ICT facilities to render better services.

During the Sixteenth Meeting of the Governing Council, Government of India assured its fullest cooperation in setting up an ICT Centre (IT infrastructure and Data Centre) at the Headquarters. The Enormous future promise of the application of ICT was also emphasised in the New Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Livelihood adopted by the ministers and senior officials of the CMCs during a Ministerial Retreat in New Delhi in 2008. The Delhi Declaration advised CIRDAP to '... further enhance its role in promoting sustainable rural livelihoods, empowering women and leveraging ICT through providing a platform for exchange of ideas, sharing experiences and best practices, dissemination of information and facilitating networks among the CMCs for generating knowledge, training and capacity building.'

In line of India's commitment, a team of ICT experts from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of India visited CIRDAP in September 2009 to help the Centre in developing a proposal of establishing an ICT Centre. The proposed ICT Centre would facilitate knowledge networking for RD in CMCs; establish digital/virtual library, geographic information system (GIS) unit, data centre, computer lab; provide IT-enabled services for the CICC and HRD services etc.

While initiating the ICT Centre, H.E. Shri Joshi reiterated Government of India's commitment in supporting CIRDAP efforts of regional cooperation for rural development. He mentioned that ICT has become a very effective tool for addressing the needs of the grassroots people and that his country is very much willing to share the best practices of ICT with other CMCs. He also mentioned that since the fast-paced information technology is always evolving, outsourcing ICT is an efficient way of managing programmes. He informed that Government of India is pleased to offer US\$183000 as funding support to set up the ICT Centre at CIRDAP Headquarters and hoped that this Centre would contribute to strengthen and foster the development efforts of the CMCs.

H.E. Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak thanked the Honourable Minister from India, for initiating the ICT Centre and for sharing India's rich experience in IT with other CMCs in the spirit of regional cooperation. He also mentioned various steps his government is undertaking for paving the way for a 'Digital Bangladesh'. He said that this ICT Centre will be a regional Centre for learning best practices of the application of ICT in rural development. He iterated Bangladesh Government's strong commitment to working towards greater regional cooperation for change through CIRDAP.

Earlier, Dr. Durga Paudyal, DG CIRDAP, while welcoming the Ministers and the delegates of the GC-17 and EC-27 meetings at the ceremony, gave a briefing on the background of establishing the ICT Centre. He referred to the New Delhi Declaration and also to the impressive examples of application of ICT in RD in India which were showcased during the retreat.

Later H.E. Shri Joshi unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion, along with H.E. Nanak and Dr. Paudyal and initiated the ICT Centre.

and sanctioned the budget of Rupee 86 lakh. DG CIRDAP had several meetings with the Ministry of Rural Development of India to get clearance of the sanctioned amount and to work out the modalities with NIRD, which is the focal point for this activity from Government of India's side. Work is underway to resolve the details involved in carrying out this activity.

Library Services

The CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library continued to provide regular library services to the users. The existing online services such as CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service (CONCS) and free Electronic Periodicals were strengthened. The publication exchange programme was expanded with more important institutions added to the list. The Library 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. Regular library activities (e.g. processing, accessioning, database entry, shelving books/periodicals/newspaper clipping etc.) were carried out.

Library Committee

A Committee on Library was constituted as follow-up of the last CIARPS. Headed by the Director Training. The Committee met several times to discuss the issues regarding the Library. The Committee members were:

Director (Training)	Chairperson
APO (Research)	Member
APO (PPD)	Member
CP	Member
Librarian	Member Secretary

The Library Committee was formed to review the existing stock of books in CIRDAP library; recommend policy and strategy for better management of the library; suggest appropriate ways and means to update the library with new knowledge; and suggest policy and strategy to link up CIRDAP library with other knowledge based institutions and libraries.

The Committee made several recommendations according to the terms of reference, and the final report was submitted. Accordingly most of the suggestions were implemented and the setting of the library was rearranged.

Audio-Visual Services

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

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

Public Relations

During this reporting period, 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.

Local TV channels and some radio stations gave coverage of the various CIRDAP programmes. ICD maintained a good rapport with the media throughout the year. Key media contacts were invited to the special events.

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 related to the administration and financial matters, developing/managing/utilising personnel, tenure/increment of the staff members, procurement, maintenance of office premises/properties/campus and arrangement of residential accommodation for professional staff members, protocol duties, management of auditorium/conference rooms/cafeteria, liaison with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, LGRD and Cooperatives, Housing and Public Works and concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities, construction and renovation work of CIRDAP Complex etc.

The division recommends and administers financial policies/procedure, 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

CIRDAP regularly conducts seminars/conferences/workshops/exposure visits/training programmes etc. where delegates from different CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) participate. But, there is no medium size conference centre of international standard in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The available venues such as Banga Bandhu International Conference Centre or Osmani Memorial Halls are intended for the large conference. The need for this type of conference facilities was felt while organising the CIRDAP Governing Council meeting and regional level policy dialogue in 2005 in Dhaka, Bangladesh where ministers and secretaries of 14 countries participated.

In this background, Public Works Department (PWD) of Ministry of Housing & Public Works was entrusted to execute the construction work of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (ICC) by Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives.

During 2007-08 and 2008-09, financial year Government of Bangladesh (Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives) allocated and released an amount of Tk. 999.45 lakh (US\$1.4 million). Later, PWD had submitted a revised estimate for allocation of an additional amount of Tk.835.42 lakh to RDCD due to increase of floor area, to make entire wall of Auditorium by RCC, some changes in Architectural design, inclusion of few new items in the estimate and to have machineries, fittings, furnitures and other materials of international standard. But Ministry of Finance approved only an amount of Tk.452.00 lakh for construction of ICC in 2008-2009 financial year.

Later, as per decision of the meeting held on 28 May 2009 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, State Minister, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, PWD submitted a proposal for additional fund amounting to Tk.459.20 lakh to Rural Development and Cooperatives Division. Accordingly, Secretary, Ministry of Finance was requested by RDCD to allocate Tk.459.20 lakh from block allocation for completion of CIRDAP ICC. But Ministry of Finance did not agree with the proposal of RDCD.

The matter of completion of CIRDAP ICC was discussed in the GC-17 held in 25 January 2010 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was informed that there is shortage of about Tk.5 crore (US\$700,000) to complete the construction work of the ICC. GC-17 strongly recommended that all member countries should make contributions to complete the CIRDAP International Conference Centre.

Request letters were sent accordingly to all the Hon'ble Members of the Governing Council and Executive Committee along with the estimate of work. Reminder letters were also sent to all Hon'ble Members of the Governing Council.

Philippines and Thailand assured to consider the matter during 2011 and 2012 respectively. Pakistan and Nepal informed their inability to fund. However, through the informal discussion with the CMC delegates, especially during the TC-26 Meeting in Kabul in December 2010, it was revealed that CMCs do not prefer to join in the construction of the building because they have to show some 'visible' progress from their contribution. Accordingly, TC-26 decided that 'the Government of Bangladesh be requested to consider providing the minimum amount of support to make the International Conference Centre functional so that it can be used'.

Some CMCs have already shown interest to participate with their own support. For example, the Government of India has showed interest in establishing an ICT centre in CIRDAP ICC building and released an amount of Rs.86,00,000 lakh (US\$188,100) in favour of National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD). They have also shown interest to consider positively for Phase - II of ICT Centre once the Phase - I is completed. Government of Malaysia has sent five boxes of decoration goods of 21 items for CIRDAP ICC. The total value of the decoration goods is about Tk.46.69 lakh (RM 200,340.00).

In the meantime, PWD submitted one proposal amounting to Tk.158.35 lakh to the Secretary, RDCD for administrative approval and to allocate the fund for construction of CIRDAP ICC. But Conference System (Table Microphone), Metallic Care Porch, Auditorium Table, Carpet, Neo Sign (Metal Signboard), Foundation Stone Ceremony and Fountain which are essential for ICC were not included in the proposal of PWD.

The prerequisite for implementation of any activities as mentioned above, is the completion of the ICC building and handing over the same to CIRDAP as early as possible. In this background, a meeting was held on 6 March 2011 at CIRDAP HQs to discuss the issue with Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, RDCD, in the chair. It was decided at the meeting to approve the proposal of PWD by LGRD and Cooperatives and to take necessary action to release the fund from Finance Division by PWD.

Fiji Joins CIRDAP

Republic of the Fiji Islands has joined CIRDAP as the Centre's 15th Member State from June 2010. Fiji consists of 300 islands and is located at 178 East & 178 West of Greenwich at 12 & 22 South Latitude. It has multi-ethnic population of 837, 271, according to 2007 census. People are mostly Christians, and English is medium of communication. Tourism is the main revenue earning source of this county.

Selection Committee Meeting

In order to recruit Director (Research), Director (ICD) and Programme Officer (Research), a total of three meetings were organised for shortlisting the candidates and taking interviews. Besides, providing the logistic and administrative support, working papers and draft minutes for the above meetings were also prepared.

Appointment

During the year 2010, two professional staff-members - Programme Officer (Training) and Programme Officer (Research) and 01 GS staff member - Secretary to Director General, were recruited in the respective vacant posts.

Personnel Advisory Committee

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

Purchase and Maintenance Committee

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 Authority and Management. A total of 112 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2010.

Gratuity Committee

A seven-member Gratuity Committee was formed as a follow-up action of CIARPS-09 to review the existing operational mechanism of gratuity of CIRDAP staff-members, recommended policy strategy for gratuity and suggest ways to move forward.

The Gratuity Committee was Constituted with:

Head, Administration & Finance	Chairperson
APO (Research)	Member
APO (PPD)	Member
Finance Officer	Member
Senior Secretary (Training)	Member
Publication Assistant	Member
Secretary (Administration)	Member Secretary

The Gratuity Committee members met several times and discussed the issues very carefully, and made several recommendations. The Committee Members proposed that the Gratuity Scheme be implemented immediately as per decision of GC-12.

Protocol Support

Administration provided required protocol support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA for the traveller, attending airport to receive and see off the traveller, arranging accommodation, lunch, dinner, transport etc. for traveller, contacting embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for the visas of the traveller to organise all the CIRDAP programmes during the year 2010. 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

The division organised 31st Founding Anniversary programme on 6 July 2010 at CIRDAP Headquarters. On this occasion, a reception followed by a dinner was organised in CIRDAP Auditorium and was attended by Secretaries of Government of Bangladesh, other government high officials, researchers, academicians, RD practitioners, VIPs/elites of the societies and former CIRDAP staff-members.

Renovation / Maintenance Work

Due to Second Ministerial Meeting held during forth week of January-2010, Public Works Department made a massive renovation and maintenance work in the campus before the meeting.

Legal Matters

The division also arranged liaison with the lawyers and prepared papers containing necessary information in connection with legal matters of CIRDAP.

Internship

To enhance the chances of gaining employment nationally or internationally and to assist the projects/studies of Research Division of CIRDAP, two local students namely, Ms. Kamrunnahar Ratna and Mr. Badal Chandra Howlader were appointed as Internees for three months and six months respectively. Necessary administrative support was provided for their appointment.

Transportation

One 27-seater minibus was imported from Tata Limited, India through Nitol Group, Bangladesh, and five vehicles - one pajero jeep, one small car, one minibus and two microbus were sold out through open bidding. Besides, arrangement was done for necessary repairing, maintenance, denting, painting and regular servicing work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP from the renowned motor workshop of the city.

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*

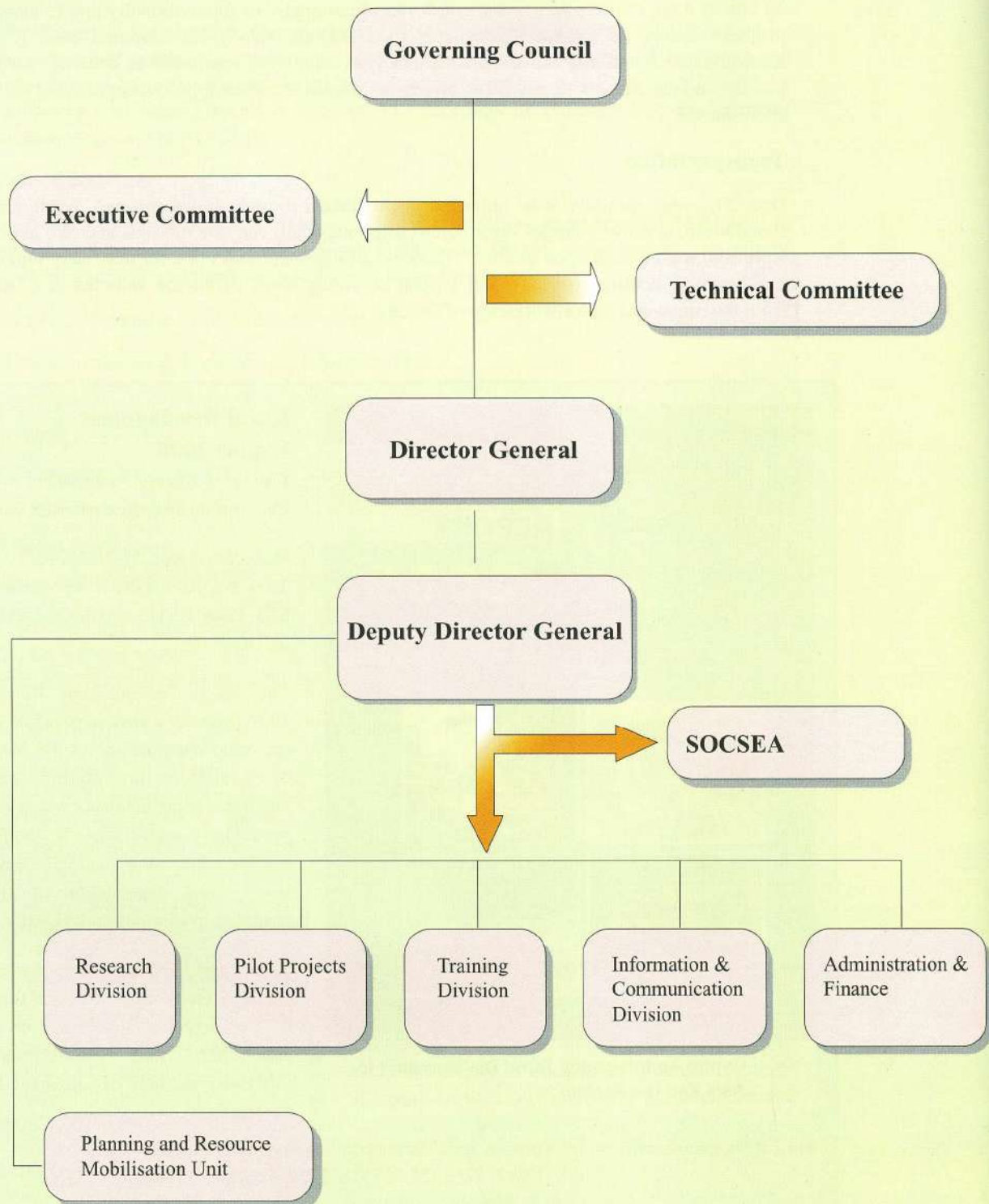
Study Series No. 217, December
2009. © CIRDAP. ISBN: 984-8104-
67-5. Price: US\$10 for CMCs, US\$15
for Others.

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

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 and Expenditure of General Fund for the 15th biennium (2008-2009) were US\$1,730,756.68 and US\$1,248,653.61 respectively. Income and Expenditure of Trust fund for the fifteenth biennium (2008-2009) were US\$851,901.85 and US\$678,644.50 respectively.

Audit of the Accounts

The Final accounts of the Centre for the 15th biennium (2008-2009) year ended on 31st December 2009 were audited by Mr. Kyaw Win, Director, Office of the Auditor General, Union of Myanmar, from 13 June to 20 June 2010. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Report and the financial statements for the 15th biennium (2008-2009) have been furnished below:

AUDITOR'S REPORT

ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP FOR THE 15TH BIENNIUM (2008-2009) ENDED ON 31ST DECEMBER 2009

I have examined the financial statements of CIRDAP (Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) for the fifteenth biennium (2008-2009) ended on 31st December 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, 20th June 2010

CIRDAP
Consolidated Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)
Final Accounts as on 31 December 2009

Account Code	Assets	2008-2009 15th Biennium Amount in US\$	Notes	2006-2007 14th Biennium Amount in US\$
40100	Cash in Hand	5,177.05		7164.87
40200	Cash in Banks	179,360.76	1	394604.96
40300	Investment in Banks	698,521.56	1	495400.18
40000	Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks	883,059.37		897,170.01
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	150,303.29	2	158324.55
40402	Advance to Staff	15,399.06	4	172585.02
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	6,314.24	5	2515.97
40404	Other Accounts Receivables	239.94		38.28
40000	Subtotal of Receivables	172,256.53		333,463.82
80000	Fixed Assets	18,844.57	3	13584.78
	Asset - auditorium/conference room income charged to DRF	19,791.93	3	30386.46
	asset purchased from project account	15,611.69	3	24209.47
	asset purchased from DRF - as per ledger 2007	2,078.07	3	3654.38
80000	Subtotal of Fixed Assets	56,326.26		71,835.09
	Total Assets	1,111,642.16		1,302,468.92
	Liabilities and Net Assets			
10101	Accrued Salary and allowances	-		-
10102	Other Accounts Payable	12,340.37	6	7542.23
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	-		14.10
	Sub Total of Total Liabilities	12,340.37		7,556.33
	Net Assets			
20100	General Fund (GF)	482,103.07		411159.56
80000	Fixed Assets	-		-
	Subtotal of General Fund	482,103.07		411,159.56
20200	Trust Fund (TF)	173,257.35		454037.42
20300	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317.00		130,317.00
20400	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	220,030.47		280964.91
20500	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	3,842.20		18,433.70
20600	Reg. Co-op. Fund (RCF)	89,751.70		-
	Subtotal of Other Funds	617,198.72		883,753.03
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,111,642.16		1,302,468.92

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



Finance Officer
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



Director General
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



KYAW WIN
Director
Office of the Auditor General, Myanmar

CIRDAP
General Fund (GF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the 15th Biennium (2008-2009) ended on 31 December 2009

Account Code	Income	2008-2009 15 th Biennium Amount in US\$	2006-07 14 th Biennium Amount in US\$
20100	Openin Balance of Fund	411,159.56	639,473.07
	Less : Assets retained per contra as on 31 December 2005		
	Less : Amount transferred to DRF		375,577.41
			263,895.66
		411,159.56	263,895.66
20400	Temporary Loan from DRF		
	Less : Refund during 2007		(50,000.00)
			50,000.00
70101	CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	1,233,594.60	1,179,977.00
70200	Miscellaneous Income	86,002.52	99,923.15
	Total Income	1,730,756.68	1,493,795.81
	Expenditure		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	295911.84	284,229.87
80102	General Staff Salary	308901.43	276,303.36
80104	General Staff Overtime	5,004.05	4,798.76
	Sub Total	609,817.32	565,331.99
80200	Common Staff Cost	148,366.51	94,457.57
80300	Official Travels	163,537.79	136,087.35
80400	External Audit	6,836.21	6,200.00
80600	General Operating Expenses	297,691.07	263,971.23
80700	Supplies and Materials	22,404.71	16,588.11
80800	Acquisition of Assets		
	Total Expenses	1,248,653.61	1,082,636.25
	Statement of of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	482,103.07	411,159.56

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



Finance Officer
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



Director General
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



KYAW WIN
Director
Office of the Auditor General, Myanmar

CIRDAP
Trust Fund (TF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the 15th Biennium (2008-2009) ended on 31 December 2009

Account Code	Income	2008-2009 15 th Biennium Amount in US\$	2006-2007 14 th Biennium Amount in US\$
20200	Opening Balance of Fund	454,037.42	312,293.06
20200	Allocation from Special Reserve Fund During the Year 2008-2009	25,634.88	7,563.64
			7,563.64
70303	Contribution Received from Malaysia	21,505.77	
10102	Donor Agency Contribution Refund	- 335.47	-
70303	Commonwealth Sec. UK	39,959.27	
70301	UN Agency Contribution	-	190,000.00
70303	Contributions of Japan through LGRD	133,952.00	-
70303	Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	177,147.98	481,147.53
		372,229.55	671,147.53
	Total Income	851,901.85	991,004.23
	Expenditure		
90100	Research Projects	272,212.12	54,335.76
90200	Pilot Projects	760.20	176,905.76
90300	Training Projects	388,339.09	311,909.94
90400	Doc. & Information Projects	17,333.09	18,024.82
	Adjustment : Total assets purchased		- 24,209.47
	Total Expenses	678,644.50	536,966.81
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	173,257.35	454,037.42

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




Finance Officer
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



Head of Admin. and Finance
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



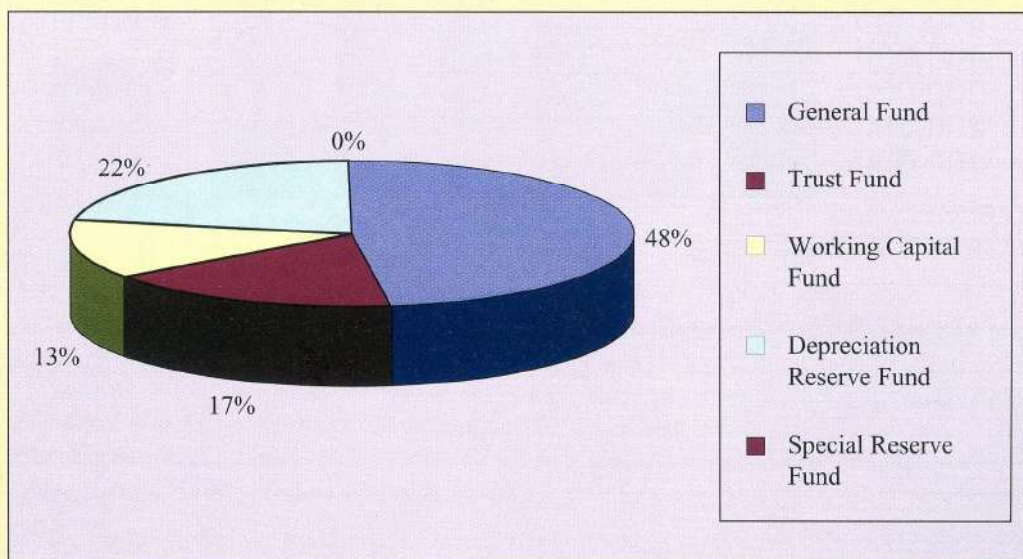
Director General
Dhaka, 31 December 2009



KYAW WIN
Director
Office of the Auditor General, Myanmar

CIRDAP Fund Status As on 31 st December 2009		
SI #	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	482,103
2	Trust Fund	173,257
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	220,030
5	Special Reserve Fund	3,842
	Total	1,009,550

Graphic Presentation



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 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 (SCIOE). Mr. Shahbaz 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 in 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 joined CIRDAP in June 2006.



Ms. KhinMar Oo, Myanmar

[M.Sc. Agricultural Extension, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad, India]

Programme Officer, Training

Prior to joining CIRDAP she has served as a Programme Officer in the International Division, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Myanmar for 11 years. She was particularly involved in activities pertaining to bilateral cooperation with Regional, International and UN organisations, INGOs and NGOs for rural development and agricultural cooperation. Also she has participated in preparation of MoUs; Work Plans; Agricultural and Rural Development Project Planning, Management and Evaluation; and Disaster Preparedness Plan for the Agricultural Sector in Myanmar.

She has served as a Lecturer of the Agronomy Department in the State Agriculture Institute in Myanmar for 13 years. She also supervised the paddy farming project in her Institute, and has successful experience in producing HYV paddy and transferring technologies to students as well as to farmers. She has participated in several seminars, workshops and training programmes at national and international level. Ms Khin Mar Oo joined CIRDAP in January 2010.



Mr. Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan, Pakistan

[M. Phil in Rural Development, Agricultural University, Pakistan; M.Sc (Hons) in Water Management, MBA in Human Resource Management]

Programme Officer, Research

His areas of expertise include works and Researches in Participatory Rural development, Poverty Alleviation, Water Management, Public Policy Implementation, and generally in Research, Teaching, Training and Disaster management, especially in earthquake-affected areas. Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan served as a government officer for more than six years as Research Associate at National Institute of Management, Peshawar, Pakistan which is an in-service training institute for the civil bureaucracy of Pakistan. He also served as an Independent Consultant with UNDP, WHO, WFP and SDC. Mr. Ali Khan was a lecturer in English and Pure Sciences at Beaconhouse School System for more than three years.

'Impact of Morels (Mushrooms) on the Rural Economy of NWFP'- a research thesis (2000), 'Critical Evaluation of Role of Public Administration in Alleviating Poverty & Improving Governance in Pakistan' (NIPA-2004) & 'New Irrigation Techniques- A Role Model for replication' (2006), are some publications to his credit. He is fully exposed to a competitive Research & Teaching/Training environment carrying requisite management and coordination skills. Mr. Ali Khan joined CIRDAP in May 2010.



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 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

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. Prior to joining CIRDAP, Mr. David 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. He participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. Mr. David 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 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 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 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, information management, media relations and publishing & printing. 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. Since April 2000, she has been serving as Assistant Information and Communications Officer. Ms. Zeenat 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 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 joined CIRDAP in December 2000.

The staff-members who left CIRDAP during the year 2010

- Mr. K.A.S. Dayananda, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Shymal Bikash Chakma, Bangladesh
- Mr. M. Mohibur Rahaman, Bangladesh

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. Mahbub Alam	:	Personnel Assistant
Mr. Md. Akram Ullah	:	Cashier
Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan	:	Secretary (Research)
Mr. Deba Datta 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	:	Temporary Janitor
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	:	Temporary Messenger
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	:	Temporary Messenger
Mr. Martin Dore	:	Temporary Messenger
Mr. Md. Raju Ahmed	:	Temporary Cook
Mr. Monir Hossain	:	Temporary Electrician
Ms. Parveen Begum	:	Temporary Cook
Mr. Biplob K. Dhar	:	Temporary Driver

Abbreviations & Acronyms

AARDO	Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation	DTP	Desk Top Publishing
ADB	Asian Development Bank	EC	Evaluation Committee
AHK NCRD&MA	Akhter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration	EC	Executive Committee
AICO	Assistant Information and Communication Officer	ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation
AIRD	Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development	ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition	FO	Finance Officer
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	GC	Governing Council
APO	Assistant Programme Officer	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ASA	Association for Social Development	GIS	Geographic Information System
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	GO	Government Organisation
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	GoB	Government of Bangladesh
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral and Technical Cooperation	GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development	HARTI	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	HDI	Human Development Index
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute	ICC	International Conference Centre
CARD	CIRDAP Approach for Rural Development	ICD	Information and Communication Division
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
CCMs	CIRDAP Contact Ministries	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CEC	CIRDAP Evaluation Committee	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CIARPS	CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CICC	CIRDAP International Conference Centre	INGOs	International Non-Government Organisations
CIPS	Community Information and Planning System	IRD	Integrated Rural Development
CLIs	CIRDAP Link Institutions	ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	IT	Information Technology
CONCS	CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Service	JADE	Japan Association of Drainage and Environment
CP	Computer Programmer	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	LAN	Local Area Network
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
DDG	Deputy Director General	LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
DFID	Department for International Development	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
DG	Director General	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MFI	Microfinance Institutions	PWB	Programme of Work and Budget
MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives	RCF	Regional Cooperation Fund
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	RD	Rural Development
MP	Member of Understanding	RDA	Rural Development Academy
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	RDCD	Rural Development and Co-operative Division
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	RDR	Rural Development Report
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development	SDC	Swiss Development Corporation
PA	Poverty Alleviation	SHGs	Self-Help Groups
PAC	Personnel Advisory Committee	SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
PCM	Project Cycle Management	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
PO	Programme Officer	ToR	Terms of Reference
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy	UN	United Nations
PPD	Pilot Projects Division	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PRA	Participatory Rapid Appraisal	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
PRDP	Participatory Rural Development Project	US AID	United States Agency for International Development
PRMU	Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit	WAN	Wide Area Network
		WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development
		WFP	World Food Programme
		WHO	World Health Organisation

Invitation for Articles

Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), a half-yearly academic journal, is a flagship publication of CIRDAP. It is devoted to the issues and discussions on rural development, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region.

The journal provides a platform for the academicians, policymakers, NGOs, research scholars and others interested in integrated rural development (IRD), to exchange and share ideas, opinions, field observations, and empirical findings on various facets of rural development.

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. Nela Bagh Street, Darul Aman, Kabul	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Nela Bagh Street, Darul Aman, Kabul
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development Kotbari, Comilla - 3500	Rural Dev. & Co-operatives Div. Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Dev. & Co-operatives, Dhaka
Fiji Islands	Provincial Dev. Multi Ethnic Affairs National Disaster Management and Sugar Knolly Street, Suva	Provincial Dev. Multi Ethnic Affairs National Disaster Management and Sugar Knolly Street, Suva
India	National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar Hyderabad-500030	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi-110041
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	Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Jihad-e-Agriculture Building Keshavars Boulevard 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 for Rural Advancement Ministry of Rural & Regional Dev. 43000 Kajang Selangor	Ministry of Rural & Regional Development, Level 4-9, 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 Local Government Complex, G-5/2 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 Agriculture 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, Ba Dinh, Hanoi

