

# 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, 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**

### **2012**



**CIRDAP**

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

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## 2012 in Review

### *Director General's Report*

This is the first Annual Report I am presenting after taking over the charge of Director General of CIRDAP on 6 July 2012. All of the 15 member countries of CIRDAP assured me of their active cooperation, and indeed it was a challenging but rewarding time for me at CIRDAP. I want to take the privilege to sincerely thank our member countries and development partners for their continued support to

CIRDAP. The year 2012 marked the successful completion of our 33 years of services to the member countries. In this year, CIRDAP was able to bring in an international expert Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, at its Headquarters to deliver CIRDAP 33rd Foundation Day lecture:

In his lecture, Dr. Kalam mentioned that through CIRDAP, the Asia-Pacific countries can harness their national competitive advantages to accelerate the transformation of the region as a whole and also address the challenges faced by the global community.

CIRDAP thus prepared itself to enhance its organisational strength and resources through better synergy and cooperation from development partners to serve the needs of the members as well as those who seek our services.



Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam delivers CIRDAP 33rd Foundation Day lecture on 5 July 2012 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka.

All the four divisions of CIRDAP worked hard to generate new programmes to serve the member countries better. Its research efforts focus on analysing the dynamics of socioeconomic changes in rural societies and identifying causal factors that constrain the lives of the rural disadvantaged groups and perpetuate poverty. The action research/pilot project activities mainly concentrate on pragmatic approach and appropriate models of interventions for rural development, giving special attention on people's participation for their own socioeconomic well-being. The training programmes try to focus on human resource development needed for integrated rural development (IRD) in the areas of -



participatory methods for planning and management of rural development projects, microfinance, governance, environment, geo-informatics etc. The training courses have contributed to improving knowledge and skills of participants. Information and Communication Division has been a key player in catalysing the promotion, sharing and dissemination of information and knowledge on IRD and poverty alleviation in the region.

Following are the highlights of the programmes and activities of the Centre in 2012:

During the period, the Research Division finalised the Rural Development Report (RDR-2011) on 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: a Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries'. The report has been circulated. The findings of the eight countries have been used to prepare policy papers which were discussed in the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue held in Iran in 2011. The policy papers have been published in the Special Issue of CIRDAP Journal (APJORD, July Issue 2012,). The Division has initiated the study on theme 'Youth in Development' for the RDR-13 for the period 2012-13 as suggested in the TC- 27 Meeting. The reports are being analysed and expected to present the findings in the forthcoming EC/GC meeting in 2014. The Division has organised a National Seminar on 'Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Agriculture' in 2012, where UNCPSA Director Dr. Katinka Weinberger presented the keynote paper.

Initiative was taken for wider dissemination of the Country Studies prepared by the CIRDAP Link Institutions, under the project titled, 'Country Study on Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries', during 2010-2011. For the benefit of the readers, the successful cases from these studies have been published in different issues of CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD).

### ***Building Bridges***

DG, CIRDAP Meets CMC Ministers, Ambassadors and Heads of Institutions



Foreign Minister of Bangladesh



Rural Development Minister of India



High Commissioner of Pakistan in Bangladesh



Ambassador of Myanmar in Bangladesh



Research Division has collected 300/350 names from the selected institutions of Bangladesh to develop a database of IRD experts to facilitate CIRDAP to communicate directly with them whenever an urgency arises. Earlier CIRDAP identified and appointed IRD experts in each CMC to help CIRDAP in various aspects.

Pilot Projects Division has been in process of making relationship with various government agencies, NGOs/INGOs, private sectors and international donor agencies/development partners through meetings, dialogues, workshops and submitting project concepts, proposals with an aim to have collaborative programmes on the various issues e.g. people's participation, decentralisation etc. related with rural development and poverty alleviation.

CIRDAP became one of the HLP Group members on 6 December 2012. Indeed, we are in process of organising HLP workshop based on 'peer-to-peer learning' in CIRDAP Member Courtiers (CMCs) in collaboration with CIRDAP Link institutions (CLIs). In this regard, PPD has developed a brochure on 'Extending Horizontal Learning Process'. In consultation with Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, I.R. Iran, PPD already organised HLP workshop with participation of relevant stakeholders from provincial level as well, during 26-29 November 2012.

As part of economic empowerment of women, Pilot Projects implemented an orientation on skill development of Handicrafts with SOS Mothers on 17<sup>th</sup> Formal SOS Mother's Training Course at SOS training centre in Dhaka on 12 November 2012. However, PPD has a plan to organise two months skill development programme on handicraft to improve the livelihoods of SOS mothers in near future, so that they can prepare handmade small handicraft materials for local market as their livelihood development approach.



Ambassador of Iran in Bangladesh



Ambassador of Vietnam in Bangladesh



High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh



High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Bangladesh



To increase awareness and knowledge building on seed processing from modern technologies and learn from each other's best practices, and also to bridge the gap between service providers of agricultural inputs and rural farmers, a workshop entitled 'Sharing the Findings of Seed Processing Field Workshops for Rural Farmers' was organised jointly by PPD, CIRDAP and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on 7 February 2012 in Comilla.

To improve the livelihoods of rural women in selective rural areas in Bangladesh by developing the handicraft industry, PPD organised a 'Skill Development Programme (SDP)' for rural women artisans from 1 April to 30 May 2012 at Shimpur Village in Comilla District, Bangladesh in association with International Jute Study Group (IJSJ) and BARD. There were four training modules on jute handicrafts and the available raw materials and a total of eight trainers from private sectors. The beneficiaries of SDP were 30 women. PPD also made an evaluation by interacting with the women beneficiaries on 30 December 2012 and developed some connections with the local markets.

PPD organised an Action Research Project on 'Retaining Rural Children in School through Integrated Health Care Programme' during 1 April-31 May 2012 at Patharghata Upazila in Barguna District, Bangladesh. This 'Basic Integrated Health Care Programme (BIHCP) in Selected Schools' consisted of the activities like Health check-up for school children, Knowledge generation: i.e. brochure, presentation, books etc. Feasibility study on supply of safe drinking water, and Study on Eco-Sanitation.

Also, PPD organised a regional workshop in Vientiane Lao PDR in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) on 28-29 February 2012 which was inaugurated by H. E. Ty Phommasack, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR.



Ambassador of the Philippines in Bangladesh



High Commissioner of Malaysia in Bangladesh



Ambassador of Afghanistan in Bangladesh



Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies



This workshop was participated by various stakeholders, through Public-Private Partnership (PPP). There were nine papers which were presented by various stakeholders in this regional workshop at the first day on 28 February 2012. One of the main objectives of the workshop was knowledge generation on food grain and reduction of post-harvest agriculture losses through discussions and sharing, and to understand the situation by participation of various stakeholders in light of PPP.

During the year 2012, Training Division (TD) has conducted four Regional Training programmes and five Exposure Visits on Microcredit, Social Forestry and Wasteland Management in collaboration with link institutes of Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal. These international programmes were focused, thematic and of topical interest. Out of four programmes, three were sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India on Decentralised Governance, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Geographic Information System (GIS) and one by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand. Training topics were identified on the basis of training need assessment and requirements of the member countries as also suggested by the sponsoring agency.

This year The Royal Government of Thailand was kind enough to share her best practice popularly known as 'One Tamboon One Product (OTOP)' with other CIRDAP member countries. His Majesty the King of Thailand initiated a unique programme in Thailand called 'Sufficiency Economy'. 'Sufficiency Economy' is the philosophy introduced by His Majesty the King of Thailand since 1974. It is a philosophy that suggests the guideline for the populace how to lead their life in proper way by means of moderation, reasonableness and risk management. His Majesty has called upon the countrymen to practise sufficiency economy in their lives to fulfil basic needs and use it as a tool to get through the economic crisis due to globalisation and various changes. The Regional Workshop was held on 26-30 August 2012 in Thailand, with the objective of sharing the best practices of rural development of Thailand with other CMCs.



ICT Minister of Bangladesh



Director General, NIRD, India



Professionals from Japan Association of Drainage and Environment



Secretary General of International Jute Study Group



It is striking to note that 112 senior officials from member countries participated in 10 programmes organised during this period. The feedback from the participants on each programme is quite encouraging. Participants mentioned that these programmes were quite useful to them and they expressed that they have learned many things which will enhance their performance in their respective work.

TD is collaborating with various link institutions such as the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India; National FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand; Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA), Jakarta, Indonesia. The Division was also engaged in the work related to Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF), where professionals from various member countries showed their interest for short-term research study in the various field of rural development. The Division facilitated with its member countries to engage the RD professionals to conduct short-term research study under RCF. There were short-term research proposals from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to be conducted in other CMCs.

The Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development continued its good will gesture to promote Regional Cooperation by allotting five slots to CIRDAP to recommend suitable in-service candidates from member countries in the PGDRDM Programme. The course fee and other expenses of CIRDAP candidates are met by the Ministry. This has helped develop the capabilities of rural development functionaries from the member countries. Since 2010, CIRDAP selects five candidates on the prescribed norms from CMCs and recommends for admission in the programme.

Encouraged by performance, Training Division is envisaging more programmes to be conducted in the next academic session, and it has submitted proposals to various sponsoring agencies. It is likely that the work performance of Training Division will increase substantially in order to cater to the training needs of its member countries. It is also essential for the link institutions to engage the Division in order to guide and help them in their training and capacity building activities.



Governance Advisor, Asia Foundation, Bangladesh



TF Net CEO



World Bank presentation on Horizontal Learning



Professionals from SOS Children's Villages, Bangladesh



During the reporting period, Information and Communication Division (ICD) played its role of being the hub of information dissemination for the Centre.

The CIRDAP ICT Centre at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), for which the ICD is the focal point, was established with support from NIRD and sponsored by the Government of India. The ICD coordinated the NIRD team exposure visit during June 2012 to successful and innovative rural development models of Bangladesh for replication by NIRD. ICD also coordinated a special Foundation Day lecture on the occasion of the 33<sup>rd</sup> CIRDAP Foundation Day. Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India delivered the Foundation Day lecture. A programme folder and the lecture of Dr. Kalam was printed on this occasion.

Public relations activities were strengthened through widespread coverage by the print, electronic, and online media. Special interview programmes for A. P. J. Kalam and also outgoing DG Dr. Durga P. Paudyal were also aired in some TV channels. Director, ICD visited Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand in July 2012 to discuss and finalise a proposal of AIT to strengthen the APJORD published by CIRDAP. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed by the two organisations. DG, CIRDAP and DICD met with Mr. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Ms. Nita Chowdhury, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. Michael Veda Siromany, Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) – to discuss several matters of mutual collaboration. This was done against the background of the selection of the theme ‘Youth in Development’ as the theme of CIRDAP ‘s Rural Development Report 2013 as suggested by the CIRDAP TC members in Colombo . As a follow-up of the suggestion of the EC of CIRDAP, a Regional Training-cum-Workshop on Information Education and Communication (IEC) Strategies for Rural Development was held during 5-10 November 2012 at NIRD, Hyderabad, India as a collaborative effort between CIRDAP and NIRD.

Several publications were brought out by ICD: CDD, APJORD (Vol. XXI, No. 2 and Vol. XXII, No. 1), Annual Report 2011, Microfinance in Select Countries of Asia-Pacific Region, Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects’, CIRDAP Evaluation Report 2009 etc. ICD has started compiling the Best Practices on Rural Development in CIRDAP Member Countries – which were presented in the TC-27 Mmeeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June 2012.

The Division arranged for participation in local book fairs and international book fair and continued dissemination products viz. Newspaper Clippings on CMC News/Journal Articles on Rural Development. It also maintained and updated CIRDAP Website and CIRDAP Intranet with new innovative features. The professionals participated in International Conference on Mobile for Development in New Delhi and in International Conference on Digital 2012 in Dhaka.

The CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) has been completed and handed over by the Government of Bangladesh to CIRDAP on 4 November 2012. Mr. Abdul Haque, Executive Engineer (Civil), City Division and Mr. Abdur Razzak Khan, Executive Engineer (Electrical & Mechanical), City Division, were present in the handing-over ceremony.

Regarding Indonesian contribution to Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) of CIRDAP, a meeting between SOCSEA and Government of Republic Indonesia was held on 16 April 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance Affairs, State Secretariat and SOCSEA. During the meeting, SOCSEA made a presentation on the aims and programmes of the RCF. The government, in principle, supports the RCF, and an inter-ministrial working group has been established by the government.

## Way Forward

The paradigm of integrated rural development (IRD), also of rural development (RD) in general, has constantly undergone shifts, from agriculture stage to anti-poverty to integrated to comprehensive stage circling between project and programme, and between promotion and participation, depending on needs of the hour.

Particularly in the nineties, greater emphasis has been given on direct intervention for poverty reduction in most of the less developed countries of the region by identifying and targeting the poor, the deprived and the vulnerable, through separate projects for specific areas or sections of people. While some member countries have been able to reduce poverty to a certain limited extent, the overall development of rural areas and people has not taken place in a desirable manner. Alongside, issues relating to women's development and environment received much priority in national planning and international cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral.

Meanwhile, the integrated model seems to have faced serious challenge, even faded to the background, due to the excessive concentration on pro-poor, pro-women and pro-environment projects. World Bank's definition treating rural development 'as a strategy to improve economic and social life of a specific group of people- the rural poor' appears to have set this tendency. Also a sudden influx of NGOs with microcredit and other related activities have tremendously accelerated to pursue different development issues for different target groups, giving almost blind eyes on holistic and community-based IRD approach.

A good number of RD concepts, ideas, models and designs have evolved through research, pilot projects, experiments and practices. So many actors in the field, not only public sector but also NPOs, NGOs, CBOs and private sectors, have emerged by the end of last century. It is now really the time that a cohesive and all-pervasive model be worked out on the basis of experiences so far we have accumulated, which will ultimately fit into the imperatives of the future.

I am convinced that CIRDAP can make significant contribution to developing that model and design which will necessarily be based on, and manifestation of, a holistic approach towards rural development, eventually leading to poverty alleviation and prosperity for the teeming millions of the Asia-Pacific region.

**Dr. Cecep Effendi**  
Director General  
CIRDAP



## *CIRDAP 33<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Anniversary*

### Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Delivers CIRDAP Foundation Day Lecture

#### **CIRDAP Must Evolve as a Regional Platform for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific Region**

Former President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam delivered CIRDAP 33<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day lecture on 5 July 2012 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. His lecture was on 'Sustainable Development System for Asia Pacific'.

The programme was also attended by H. E. Syed Ashraful Islam, Hon'ble Minister for LGRD&C of Government of Bangladesh, H. E. Adv. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Hon'ble State Minister for LGRD&C, and Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of LGRD&C. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, the outgoing Director General of CIRDAP and Dr. Cecep Effendi, the Director General-Designate of the Centre, were also present on the occasion.



Outgoing DG, CIRDAP, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal presenting CIRDAP crest to Dr. Kalam



A view of the participants



Dr. Kalam enquiring about CIRDAP publications



DG-designate, CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi seen with Dr. Kalam

Dr. Kalam in his lecture mentioned that Asia-Pacific countries can harness their national competitive advantages to accelerate the transformation of the region as a whole and also address the challenges faced by the global community.

He stated that at present many countries face problems, the solutions for which cannot be achieved individually rather these are collective responsibility of the global community. The global challenges take various manifestations based on the local dynamics which are interconnected on various factors. He also presented his vision of nations of the world in 2030.

Dr. Kalam said that for achieving a better world, systems of sustainable development are required for the international rural community which today account for about half of humanity. He emphasised empowering of these three billion people worldwide, out of which more than two-thirds are in the Asia-Pacific Region. In this context, he presented one such system of empowerment called 'Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA)'.



Dr. Kalam with the media

'... For achieving a sustainable development system in our rural complexes, we need PURA - Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas, which envisages four types of connectivity, namely: physical, electronic and knowledge connectivity leading to economic connectivity of the complex,' Dr. Kalam said. Such PURA is driven by rural entrepreneurship and becomes a growth centre for the entire region.

Dr. Abdul Kalam presented the essence of the PURA model and cited references to some specific variations of the model to suit the geographical diversity of the CIRDAP member countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

He also talked about how a knowledge platform can facilitate all these visions and missions to take shape. He said '...In the 21<sup>st</sup> century world, we need to evolve platforms for the seamless flow and exchange of knowledge and technology across the world for the sustainable development'. He proposed creating an 'Asia Pacific Sustainable Development Platform' which will enable joint design, development, cost-effective production and marketing of the knowledge products, systems and services in various domains based on the core competence of partner nations to international market along the mission of sustainable development.

'The convergence of Bio, Nano, Eco and IT is expected to touch every area of concern to the humanity, he said. 'The Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Platform will take up the missions which are of utmost urgency to make our world a safe, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous place to



live. These areas would include: Agriculture and allied activities; Environment and energy independence; Empowering the fisherman with geospatial technologies; Healthcare; Disaster prediction and management'.

In his lecture, Dr. Kalam suggested forging regional cooperation beneficial to the people in general and the rural poor in particular, for tapping 'core competences' of member nations of CIRDAP.

After delivering his lecture, Dr. Kalam had an interactive session with the envoys from the CMCs, eminent citizens from Bangladesh, experts on RD and PA and water management, policymakers and NGO workers. Their discussions mainly focused on regional peace, political leadership, water management and rural development and poverty alleviation in the Asia-Pacific countries.

The CIRDAP Foundation Day also marked the conclusion of tenure of Dr. Durga Paudyal from Nepal as Director General of CIRDAP (2004-2012). Dr. Cecep Effendi from Indonesia took over from him on 6 July 2012.

'I think South Asia will emerge as an integrated region... in next 10 years, discarding their rivalry following footsteps of EU and ASEAN nations,' he said at a brief press conference at CIRDAP Library in Dhaka on 5 July 2012 before wrapping up his two-day visit.

The nuclear scientist also suggested that Bangladesh and India should work together to replace plastic products with environment-friendly jute goods.

'Thirty billion tonnes of carbon dioxide are being injected every year and that's why I am promoting solar power, hydropower, wind power, nuclear power and bio-fuel.' He identified 'water resource' to be a crucial area of bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and India, saying that scarce resource being shared by the two countries through common rivers was being wasted largely due to 'inefficient management'.

'The most important thing for the advancement of the region is water management. If we can do this, production, growth and other development will expand,' he added.

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam also met Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on 4 July 2012. He had a special interactive session with a group of children and youths from Bangladesh and other CIRDAP member countries on 5 July 2012 at a city hotel.

Dr. Kalam last visited Bangladesh in 2009. He was the 11<sup>th</sup> President of India from July 2002 to July 2007. Since demitting the Office of the President of India, Dr. Kalam has been travelling to various parts of the world where he has addressed several prestigious institutions and bodies.

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division of CIRDAP, coordinated all the programmes of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

## *Policy Body Meeting*

### **27<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP**

The Twenty-seventh Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-27) was held at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Sri Lanka from 13 to 16 June 2012. TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), IRD Expert, and the Secretary General, AARDO attended the meeting. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Sri Lanka; and Representative of FAO were present in the inaugural session. Senior government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, HARTI and representatives from the civil society organisations (CSOs) also attended the inaugural session.

#### **Inaugural Session**

The inaugural ceremony of the meeting was held at the Mahindasilva Auditorium of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Colombo, Sri Lanka at 9 am on 13 June 2012.

His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, Minister for Agriculture, Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, inaugurated TC-27 Meeting as the Chief Guest and Mr. W. Sakalasooriya, Secretary, Agriculture, graced the occasion as Special Guest.

Mr. W. Sakalasooriya, Secretary, in his address of welcome, thanked the Chief Guest, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, the outgoing TC Chairperson, Director General of CIRDAP and the distinguished members of the Technical Committee for sparing their valuable time to attend the TC-27 Meeting. He also thanked CIRDAP for choosing Sri Lanka as the venue for the TC-27 Meeting.



Group photograph of the TC - 27 participants



His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena mentioned that Sri Lanka is predominantly an agricultural country and its contribution to poverty alleviation is substantial. The rural areas comprise about 70-80 per cent of the country. About 2 million families are engaged in farming as their main occupation. More than 70 per cent of the paddy farms belong to the small farmers category owning less than one hectare of land.

H.E. mentioned that HARTI in collaboration with CIRDAP will conduct a research study on 'Rural Product Development and Marketing in some selected countries' which will be funded by Sri Lanka. He further declared that three international training programmes in collaboration with CIRDAP will be held in HARTI funded by the Government of Sri Lanka for all CIRDAP member countries.

## Business Session

### Agenda item - 1:

Election of Chairperson Mr. Lalith Kantha Jayasekera, Director of HARTI was unanimously elected the Chairperson of TC-27.

### Agenda item - 2:

Adoption of agenda and time-table:

The meeting adopted the agenda and programme of TC-27.

### Agenda item - 3:

Follow-up actions on the suggestions of the 26<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting

### Agenda item - 4:

Presentation of follow-up actions on the recommendations and decisions of EC-28 and GC-18 Meetings

### Agenda item - 5:

Presentation of Director General's Report on CIRDAP activities

### Agenda item - 6:

Presentation of innovative practices from eminent practitioners, experts on Rural Development

### Agenda item - 7:

Discussion on the RDR-2013:

Selection of Topics, and Outline, time-frame and other modalities

Decision: The Meeting selected 'Youth in Development' as the theme for the RDR-2013 with the following time-frame:

- i. Country reports to be received by CIRDAP- October 2012
- ii. Analysis and preparation of overview paper by CIRDAP- January 2013
- iii. Received comments on the overview by CMCs- March 2013
- iii. Publishing the reports- May 2013
- iv. RDR-2013 will be presented in the Sixth Regional Policy Dialogue

### Agenda item - 8:

Capturing and sharing with link-up and emulating best practices on rural development and poverty alleviation in CIRDAP member countries

### Agenda item - 9:

Discussion on Capacity Building of CIRDAP Link Institutions and making the Technical Committee proactive.

Decision: A scoping study would be conducted for strengthening the CLIs. The information required for the purpose has to be furnished by the CLIs within the stipulated period. A suggested framework of

indicators/information is given below. CLIs could also suggest some more indicators relevant for the purpose which will be circulated by CIRDAP to all CLIs to furnish the information. The information should be submitted to CIRDAP by end of July 2012.

#### Information required from CLIs

All CLIs are requested to furnish information relating to their organisation and country. This is a suggestive list not exhaustive.

- a) Vision, mission and mandate of the organisation.
- b) Whether envisioning exercise has been done in recent past to look at the activities and evolve new roadmap for future? If so, a copy of the report may please be submitted to the team.
- c) Faculty position - sanctioned, vacant, qualifications, specialisation, mode of recruitment, pay scale, future requirements. Whether shortage of competent faculty?
- d) Training/course conducted - duration, clientele group, coverage, national requirements.
- e) i) Whether training need assessment was conducted?  
ii) Do you conduct International Training Programmes? How many every year, country coverage?  
iii) What methodologies are adopted?  
iv) Whether programmes are evaluated by participants? How is feedback used?  
v) Do you conduct training for elected representatives? Specify category and level.  
vi) Have you prepared training modules, curriculum, manual, training materials, pedagogy of delivery, monitoring and evaluation or training impact conducted?
- f) What is the budget of the institute? What are sources? Whether available fund is adequate? Have you planned to increase funds? What are new sources of funding to be tapped?



During the session

- g) Whether national training framework has been developed? If so, whether it has been operationalised, how much achieved?
- h) Whether networks with other institutions established?
- i) Do you have distance mode of training? If so, what is the coverage and give details.
- j) Whether national training framework has been developed? If so, whether it has been operationalised, how much achieved?



- k) Whether institute is conducting research studies, what type of studies, such as policy research, diagnostic, evaluation study, country specific or cross-country? Whether study findings are used in training?
- l) List of Best Practices/Success Stories of CMCs which can be shared to other CMCs.
- m) Whether the CLI is conducting Action Research/Pilot projects? If so, provide list of Action Research/Pilot Projects implemented by CLI to duplicate in other CMCs in their context.
- n) Details of Action Research/Pilot Projects are being implemented by CLI, i.e. name, objective, methodology, area coverage, duration, budget, implementing agency and team, sponsors.
- o) Any other relevant information that deem to be useful for assessing their capacity.

#### Agenda Item -10:

Discussion on need assessment study of CMCs by CIRDAP to find out how CMCs could sponsor training programmes and collaboration with CIRDAP.

#### Agenda Item -11:

Discussion on mobilisation of Corpus Fund and designing/formulating/framing its rules and procedures for operation and best utilisation

#### Agenda Item -12:

Presentation on three years Working Programmes of CIRDAP based on interest and strength of CMCs to achieve the Vision of CIRDAP.

#### Agenda Item -13:

Identifying indicators for periodic monitoring of the performances of the Director General of CIRDAP. Twenty-eighth Meeting of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-28) held in Tehran in 2011 expressed their concern over the poor response from qualified officers and professionals for the position of Director General, CIRDAP. They decided:

- (1) Reviewing the status and position including remuneration package to attract qualified and dynamic candidates;
- (2) Screening committee members be raised from 4 to 5 including a female member. The age limit be raised from 56 to 62 to attract highly qualified professionals;
- (3) Developing performance indicators for periodic monitoring of the performance of DG, CIRDAP.

CIRDAP has been given responsibility to prepare a detailed proposal in consultation with TC and present it for approval in the next EC/GC Meeting. As per decision of the EC-28 and GC-18, CIRDAP hired a consultant to prepare a discussion paper. A comprehensive paper was prepared and presented by Mr. A. T. M Shamsul Haque, former Director General of CIRDAP.

#### Agenda Item - 14:

##### Other Matters:

Under other matters, several delegates raised the problem of getting visa in some countries, when nomination comes at the last minute, due to which some of the participants failed to attend the respective programme. In order to mitigate the problem, the CMCs/CLIs are requested to nominate participants to training well ahead of time.

#### Agenda Item -15:

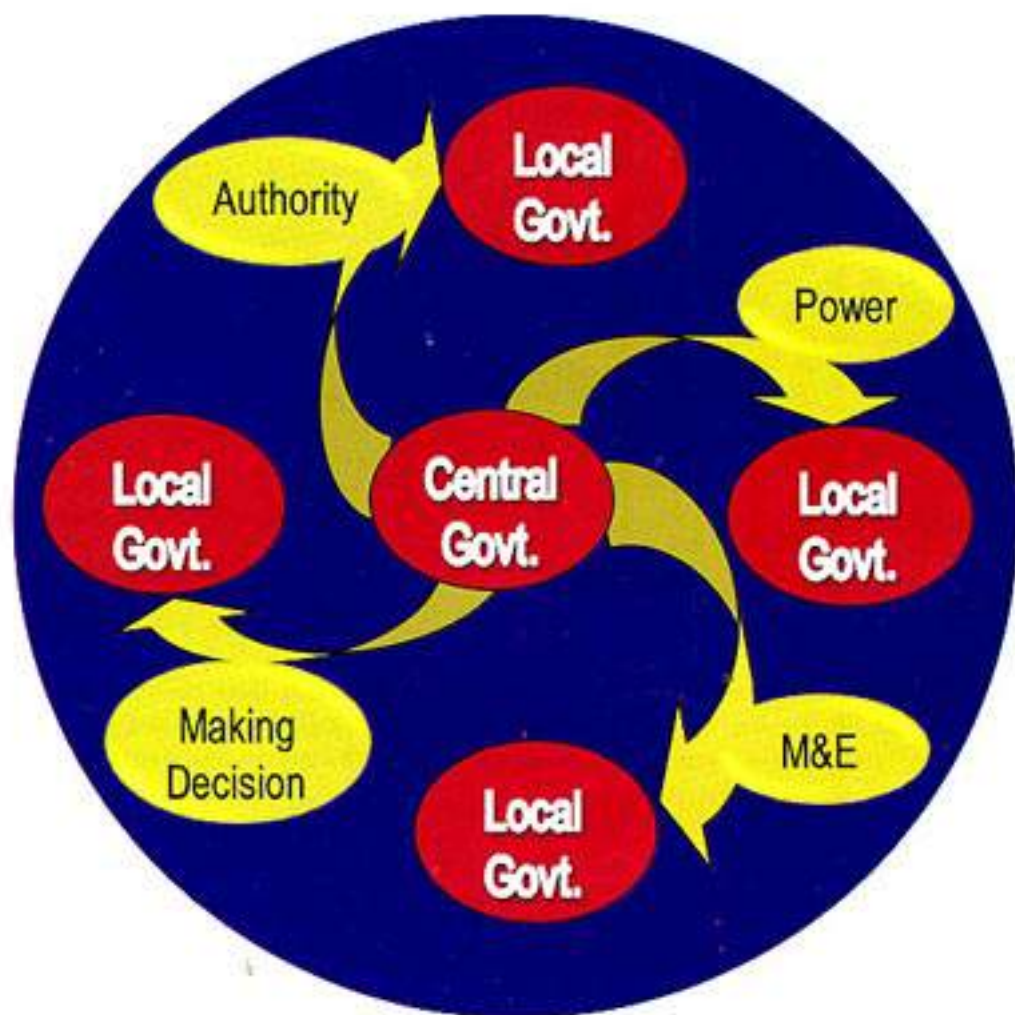
Fixing the date and venue of the next Technical Committee Meeting:

The delegate from Indonesia expressed willingness to host the twenty-eighth regular meeting of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP in Indonesia.

- Rural Development Report 2011
- Decentralised Approach to RD and PA; Micro-experiences
- 'Rural Development Report 2013' Launched
- Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Agriculture
- Highlights of Completed Projects and Database of Experts
- Project Proposals

### **Focused Areas**

- Decentralisation
- RD & PA issues
- Youth in development
- Capacity building
- Sustainable agriculture
- Database of RD experts
- Collaboration with donors





Over the last thirty-three years between 1979-2012, the Research Division has undertaken 103 projects including 14 national and international workshops/seminars and policy dialogue. The research agenda underwent periodic changes reflecting rural development (RD) and poverty alleviation (PA) issues of contemporary importance and changes in the dynamics of rural poverty in general and RD policy shifts and programme thrusts in CIRDAP Member Countries (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.

In order to reposition CIRDAP to effectively address the new issues and challenges in the era of globalisation, CIRDAP arranged a Round-table Discussion on 5 July 2007 seeking ideas and suggestions from a fleet of distinguished participants, and charted out the future road map for the Centre. In the light of recommendations received from the participants, 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.

The highlights of some of the activities of Research Division in 2012 have been presented below:

### **Rural Development Report 2011**

As decided by the governing body, CIRDAP prepares report on Rural Development, of each member country, every biennium. The Technical Committee (TC-26) held in Kabul, Afghanistan, during 11-14<sup>th</sup> December 2010, suggested a theme of topical interest entitled 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: a Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries', which has been prepared and circulated. The findings of the eight countries have been used to prepare policy papers which were discussed in the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue in Tehran, in 2011. The policy papers were published in the Special Issue of APJORD, Volume-XXII, No. 1.

The consolidated report prepared by the division has been given to a external reviewer to see the contents etc. Professor Kaida of Kyoto University, Japan and also IRD expert of CIRDAP has completed the editing part.

### **Decentralised Approach to RD and PA: Micro-experiences**

The Country Studies were prepared by the CIRDAP Link Institutions, under the project titled, 'Country study on Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries', during 2010-2011. CIRDAP has taken initiative for wider dissemination of these studies in the CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) consecutively, for the benefit of the readers.

### **Rural Development Report 2013**

CIRDAP Research Division launches a new project titled 'Youth in Development' in its 15 member countries. The main objective of the project is to formulate a Regional Action Plan among the CIRDAP member countries to provide a substantial support to the youth for mitigating socioeconomic disparity and poverty, in the present context, and in the future.

Young people in the region share a number of common development challenges, such as, poor educational commitment, access and attainment, steady rural-to-urban migration, a breakdown of

traditional systems of social support, a lack of economic competitiveness, high levels of unemployment, poor human development outcomes and a strong perception that the public system is not fair and fails to address their concerns. Young people also suffer from alienation and have virtually no role in many areas of social and political life; and the failure of the labour market to absorb them exposes them to numerous risks, including organised crime, violence and civil unrest.

A strong economic base cannot be built without strengthening vulnerable youth groups' social and economic assets. It could thereby create the structural milieu for arresting future generations from falling into the poverty trap. It is estimated that over 20 per cent of world population comprises youth (between 15-24 years of age), and by 2020, it is projected this would be double. This will exert a massive pressure on limited infrastructure and public services, especially in education, health, housing, and other basic utilities. Developing countries with high unemployment rates actually tend to be among the poor, with low levels of education; they cannot afford to be idle and are more likely to be employed under poor conditions. To assess the better work prospect of youth, it is also needed to look at various aspects of underemployment, quality of employment and barriers to decent work faced by young people in respective working areas. This will give raw data on some components like employment, unemployment and underemployment, problems faced during natural calamities and suggestions on how to involve youth in development. Youth population are a tremendous resource for national development. There is clear evidence of the determination of today's youth for self-improvement and their commitment to improving the social, political, and economic fabric of society through individual and group action. The youth is a major force in bringing about change and are the world's future decision-makers. Given this, there is a need to involve youth in planning, policy-making, and decision-making for development.

Youth unemployment rates may be up to four times the adult rate in some countries, often because, while many youth may have access to primary education, there is little access to secondary or tertiary education, resulting in inadequate skills. Even those youth that do benefit from higher education may find their skills to be irrelevant, as the education system may not be geared toward meeting the demands of the labour market. The need to reform education systems in the region is not helped by the decrease in spending on education over recent years. Conflict and instability have also affected youth prospects due to their effect on the economy, interruption of education, government failure to provide basic services, and also because, as seen across the region, youth may play a key role in the instability.

The study is expected to suggest country specific needs for youth and incorporate policy recommendations, for: a) envisaging youth villages; b) fully integrated continuum of services for youth; c) skills, jobs and career development; and d) psychological counselling at the lowest administrative level of each participating country.

The study has been taken up following the recommendation of the CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-27) held in Sri Lanka in June 2012. The country findings are expected to provide sufficient inputs for preparing the theme papers for the Sixth Regional Policy Dialogue to be held in India in 2013 along with CIRDAP Policy Bodies Meeting.

## **Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Agriculture**

CIRDAP organised a half-day seminar on 16 October 2012 at its auditorium titled 'Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Agriculture'. The keynote presentation was made by Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Director of Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), a Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of United Nations based in Bogor, Indonesia. Hon'ble Director General (DG) of CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi chaired and moderated the session. Academicians, researchers, scholars related to poverty and agriculture, and CIRDAP professionals attended the session.





*Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Director, CAPSA presenting a brief account on CAPSA and its role in promoting agriculture*

Dr. Katinka Weinberger, in her presentation, provided a brief account on CAPSA and its role in promoting sustainable agriculture. She was in a view that undernourishment and poverty is unacceptably high in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the agricultural land is being reduced with increasing of the population size and to provide adequate food for all through increasing the agricultural productivity is the key issue. Climate change has an adverse impact on agriculture to make it unsustainable, as agricultural sector is the major sources of emission of green house gases (GHGs) which required high energy for production and one of the prime contributors to depleting ground water resources. She mentioned in her speech that employment growth in South and Southeast Asian countries is much lower than the economic growth. To attain the food sovereignty and boost up the economic growth, agricultural growth is the key. Contribution of agriculture in Gross Domestic Production (GDP) growth has a direct relationship with the rural poor. However, agricultural growth should be managed in a sustainable way to benefit the producers and consumers. In such a situation, CAPSA has initiated a three-year project titled 'The network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia (SATNET Asia; website: [www.satnetasia.org](http://www.satnetasia.org)) funded by European Union to support innovation by strengthening South-South dialogue and inter-regional learning on sustainable agricultural technologies and trade facilitation, thereby contributing to improved food security and reduced poverty of the poorest and the most vulnerable people in South and Southeast Asia region. More than 30 institutions in target countries are already participating in the project.

The priority is given to select appropriate technology through enlarging analytical framework, collecting and identifying appropriate priority technology option and disseminating to stakeholders. Such technology will enhance diversified food system that will ensure the sustainability of system, healthy food and economic opportunity.

During the implementation of the project, the CAPSA will facilitate training and capacity building, expert consultation, high level policy dialogue and advice, documentation of information and facilitation of networking. Dr. Katinka expressed hope that such an initiative would foster agricultural sustainability to alleviation of poverty.

Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP, opined that poverty alleviation required a diverse set of coordination between different stakeholders, and can only be achieved through promotion of sustainable agriculture.

During the lively open discussions, many pertinent issues came up and all the participants put forward specific suggestions to streamline the cooperation between the organisations to promote sustainable

agriculture in the region. It is argued that technological improvement and capacity building of producers and related stakeholders should emphasise to improve the situation of poverty since agricultural land is decreasing in the CMCs, and the agricultural contribution to GDP is also decreasing due to escalating cost of production and farmers are not willing to engage in an occupation that cannot ensure food security for a year for the family.

The institutions working in the agriculture sector do not follow the holistic approach. In most of the cases, sometimes they work at policy level and sometimes at application level. Thus, there remains an untouchable gap between the production size, utility and market. To overcome the emerging problem, 'Group Approach' might be the appropriate option of the landless population.

In Bangladesh, 80 per cent of women are agricultural labourer. However, they neither got the opportunity to be engaged in capacity building activities nor treated as agricultural workers. They are the shadow workers as they have multiple roles in household. Recognising their role and providing adequate opportunity can sustain their household as well as the agriculture. Political commitment at the national level can ensure the benefits of contribution of women. Farmers' bank and networking between farmers associations to boost up the production as well as sustainability in agriculture might be an alternative option.

The issue of food security and sustainable agriculture is not the same. Food security can only be achieved when sustainability in agriculture can be ensured. Bangladesh is self sufficient in food grain (rice) but not in other crops (e.g. oil seeds, pulse, cash crops etc.). To achieve the status of food secured country, emphasis may be given on sustainable agriculture and a policy in this regard.

Post-harvest loss is one of the major issue to be addressed adequately. Some participants opined that the issue of optimum mobilisation of resources for sustainable agriculture can be managed through creation of a 'World Food Bank' or 'Asian Food Bank' to manage the crisis.

The discussion meeting observed that production of food is very costly, and the farmers are not getting the fair prices for their production. Government procurement system is not so effective to minimise the loss. There remain huge price gaps between the producer to consumer or 'soil to dining table'. To ensure food security and alleviation of poverty, security of farmers should be the major concern as they are the safeguard of the agricultural sector.

Dr. Katinka Weinberger addressed some of the issues raised by the participants and argued that government incentives, non-government and community based organisations needs to be collaborated in a holistic approach to attain the sustainable agriculture for alleviation of poverty and food security. She also emphasised increasing the capacity building of policymakers, farmers, and relevant stakeholders, which they are trying to facilitate with their project SATNET Asia through CAPSA.

Dr. Effendi was in an opinion that public-private partnership is very much essential to address the emerging issue. He also argued that such an issue cannot be solved overnight, and it is a issue to be addressed continuously in different forum to formulate a policy. CIRDAP is looking forward to collaborating with different organisation to implement projects and programmes on sustainable agriculture. Finally, the discussion ended with the vote of thanks from Director General, CIRDAP.

## Highlights of Completed Projects and Database of Experts

Research Division have so far implemented around 26 activities from July 2005 to June 2012. As per decision of the management, the highlights have already been completed for publication.

Director General, CIRDAP, after joining CIRDAP, felt that CIRDAP should have up-to-date database of experts on rural development. This will facilitate CIRDAP to easily communicate to them. As a matter of fact, this matter was seriously thought by Dr. A.V. S. Reddy. He brought out some brochures



consisting of selected subject matter specialists drawn/identified from the CMCs. Before that CIRDAP identified and appointed IRD experts in each CMCs to help CIRDAP in various aspects. DG has kindly entrusted RD to start with a preliminary database from the relevant institutions in CMCs. RD has collected 300/350 names from the selected institutions of Bangladesh and India.

## Project Proposals

Some proposals were prepared by Research Division (RD) and submitted to donors in the year 2012:

- (i) Management System International (MSI), Inc., a US based firm, contacted CIRDAP to work as partner organisation for the projects 'Monitoring and Evaluation for the Feed the Future and FEEDBACK Programme' and 'USDA' of similar nature of USAID. RD furnished all the necessary materials for the biddings.
- (ii) Evaluation study on the Impacts of Integrated Social Protection Programme aimed at the Empowerment of Poor Women in Bangladesh focusing on the effectiveness of Maternity Allowance Centred SAPNA Integrated Social Safety Net for Poverty Alleviation, submitted to a local NGO called DORP.
- (iii) Follow-up on Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on access to land and other natural Resources- 'Land Digitisation in Bangladesh'.
- (iv) Proposal on Food Security submitted to TC-27.
- (v) Proposal on Climate Change submitted to TC-27.
- (vi) Youth in Development, submitted to TC-27 which has been accepted as theme for Rural Development Report 2013.
- (vii) Information and Communication Technologies for Rural Development submitted to TC-27.
- (viii) Technical and Financial Proposal for 'Mapping of Urban Planning Process of Bangladesh Government (national to local level) to explore Scope for Mainstreaming Urban DRR into Development Planning Process' submitted to Oxfam Bangladesh.
- (ix) Technical and Financial Proposal on Evaluation of Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Oxfam International Economic Justice Campaign in Bangladesh, submitted to Oxfam, Bangladesh.
- (x) Submitted 'Expression of Interest for the Implementation of SHARIQUE Phase 3 in Bangladesh' to SDC, Switzerland.

Research Division received some proposals from the Government of Iran. The following three proposals were revised and submitted:

- Assessment of Implemented Projects in Support and Development of Small Scale Rural Industries in CIRDAP Member Countries
- Comparative Analysis of Rural Development Planning and Management System in CMCs
- Preparation of Integrated Plan of Eco-tourism Using CIRDAP Member Countries' Experiences

RD also submitted a concept note to the Iranian Government for hosting one ministerial retreat as per decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP.

## Pilot Projects

- Sharing the Findings of Seed Processing Field Workshops for Rural Farmers
- Reducing Post-Harvest Losses and Improving Grain Storage System for
- Enhancing Food Security
- Rural Women Artisans on Handicrafts for Improvement of Livelihoods
- Collaboration with Development partners
- Retaining Rural Children in School through Integrated Health Care Programme
- Publications

### Focused Areas

- Dissemination of field workshop findings
- 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
- Horizontal learning programme





The major considerations in formulating pilot projects are effective and efficient participation of the target groups, integration of activities of rural development agencies at the community level, and co-operation and collaboration with NGOs and private sectors. The Pilot Projects Division is basically designed to conduct the field-level programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). The Action Research/Pilot Projects was envisaged in the 'Charter of Agreement' for the establishment of CIRDAP as one of its major programmes of activities. The emphasis on action research is also in line with the 'Declaration of Principles and Programmes of Action by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), in 1979.

The pilot projects involve the rural communities in various activities on rural development and poverty alleviation, such as, seed processing, food security, reducing of post-harvest losses, income and employment generation for rural women, basic integrated health care for rural school children. People's participation remains as the basic philosophy of implementation of mechanism of pilot projects. PPD, CIRDAP has also made substantial collaboration with other development partners like: International Jute Study Group (IJSJ), WSP-World Bank Bangladesh and different CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) in the CMCs.

The major project activities conducted during 2012 are as follows:

### **Sharing the Findings of Seed Processing Field Workshops for Rural Farmers**

A workshop entitled 'Sharing the Findings of Seed Processing Field Workshops for Rural Farmers' was organised jointly by PPD, CIRDAP and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on 7 February 2012 in Comilla.

The objectives of the sharing workshop were to increase awareness and knowledge building on seed processing from modern technologies and learn from each other's best practices, and also to reduce or bridge the gap between service providers of agricultural inputs and rural farmers.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General of BARD, was the Chairperson, while Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director, SAARC Information Centre (SAIC), Dhaka, and Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman, Member-Director (Seed & Horticulture), Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), were respectively, Special Guest and Guest of Honor. Apart from academics, professionals, agriculture scientists, there were farmers, representatives who participated in PPD's earlier six field workshops (2010-2011) on Seed Processing for rural farmers. In the Business Session, there were five papers which were presented from BADC, ACI, RDA, Biotechnology and Environment Conservation Centre and PPD.

During this workshop, a keynote paper was presented by Director, PPD, Mr. Hossein Shahbaz on 'Bridging the Gap between Public, Private and Farmers (PPF) in Agricultural Development- A Case of Seed in Bangladesh'. He informed that PPD organised a national workshop on Reduction of Post-harvest Losses to address the food security in 2009, as well as six field workshops in 2010-2011 on Seed Processing for rural farmers, in collaboration with farmers of Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP), BARD. While implementing the field workshops, PPD identified that there is a gap between the receivers (farmers) and 'For Profit Private Service Providers (FPSP)' in the village at grassroots level. There is lack of operational mechanism regarding follow-up with service providers in favour of farmers as buyers or receivers in decentralised manner. Sometimes, farmers are not aware of their rights and follow-up procedures with the service providers to get the best available services, against the money they usually spent. In fact, there should be two-way communication between two parties, which is often not found in rural project areas. So, it is the poor farmers, who are often found losers and exploited by the agricultural service providers/dealers. As for example, they pay for a seed packet for at least 80 per cent germination, produced by FPSP, but often it is found that the germination rate is nominal, which sometimes, is even 30 per cent. Therefore, PPD



*Sharing the Findings of Seed Processing Field Workshops*

felt that there should be a follow-up and coordination mechanism at the field level, which can get the farmers to service providers and to establish their rights as seed consumers.

In the inaugural session, the Chief Guest DG, CIRDAP emphasised CIRDAP and BARD to develop a RD and PA model, from their experiences and practice, to be replicable everywhere in Bangladesh and in other CMCs in collaboration with respective stakeholders.

Director General, BARD, who also spoke in the inaugural session, thanked CIRDAP to organise this workshop for rural farmers as it is very important for rural farmers. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad and Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman also put emphasis on seed quality and availability to the farmers, as these have direct connection with food security.

Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, while welcoming the distinguished participants, thanked all the participants, specially BARD to choose the venue of the workshop which was convenient for the farmers' representatives to participate in the workshop from different areas of Comilla District. He also thanked DG, BARD and other professionals to provide all types of non-professional and logistic support.

In the Business Session, there were five papers which were presented as: (a) Role of BADC in Quality Seed Production, Processing, Preservation and Distribution for Sustainable Food Security under Changing Climate- by Md. Nuruzzaman, Member Director (Seed & Horticulture), BADC; (b) Field Experience Sharing on Challenging of Supply Agriculture Inputs Management- Case Study: Seed by Private Sector- by Dr. Shafiqul Akhter; (c) Rural Women in Seed Business- by Mr. Zakaria, Director, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra; (d) Diseases Free Seeds through Tissue Culture- by Dr Ferdousi Begum, Executive Director, Development of Biotechnology & Environment Conservation Centre; and (e) Sharing Findings of Seed Processing Field Workshops- by Mr. Hossein Shabaz, Director, PPD.

#### **Discussions by Farmers' Representatives:**

- Chairperson of CVDP, Raicho, Comilla, Mr. Aminul Islam, is involved in agricultural activities like many other members of CVDP. He opined that good seeds help get good production apart from other inputs like irrigation and fertiliser. But the sad part is that the farmers usually do not get the right price back, even sometimes they face loss against the money already spent. The middle man who buys from farmers and sells in city market gets the profit. With reference to the trust on BADC, Aminul Islam made a negative opinion, as there is no expiry date on seed packets in any shop, rather than there is only information about the authorised dealers. Also, there should be farmers' friendly management and technical services from the related agriculture departments/agencies like Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), BADC etc. rather than only assurance from the meetings. Lastly, Aminul mentioned of not getting an appropriate place for the compensation for fake



seeds delivered by specific agencies/companies. There is always lack of availability of good seeds in the local market.

- Jahirul Islam, Punch Kitta, CVDP, Comilla, revealed his association with renowned agriculture media person, Shayikh Siraj in his area for an agriculture documentary in November 2011. Jahirul expressed his confidence on the seed of BADC. He opined that there is demand and profitability at seed sector, by giving his own example. Farmers really require training on seed processing locally as per requirements, according to him.
- Mominul Haque, CVDP, Kalikapur, Comilla, informed that in last two to three years, there was lack of supply of proper paddy seeds in his area. Mominul Haque demanded foundation seed of paddy from BADC, which is very important in seed processing. Lastly, he emphasised receiving the seed through societies/cooperatives as sometimes dealers are not providing proper services to the farmers; they are busy with making profit.



*Farmers expressing opinion on seed*

- Zahirul Islam, Barura Society, Comilla, said 'Good seed is must for good production'. He shared his experiences on seed- two farmer brothers bought same kind of seed packet from the same dealer but production was different, as one got good germination, whereas other one did not get that quality germination, and they did not know the reasons for such difference.
- Peyera Begum, Shimpur Women Society, Comilla, spoke by recalling the memories of Seed Processing Field Workshop with Rural Women at Shimpur Village, organised by PPD on 4 May 2011, in which 29 women participated, who were involved with kitchen gardening. At that field

workshop, some vegetable seeds, i.e. tomato, spinach, moolis, bottle gourds etc. were distributed, which according to her, grew very well at Shimpur Village. She also thanked CIRDAP/BARD to organise this workshop as they sold bottle gourds at Tk.50/- each on an average. The seeds were grown in the same size, as she got the same kind of seeds, which were properly processed for being best yields from the sample seeds.

In wrapping-up session, DG, CIRDAP made three points that are as follows: (a) More subsidiary on agriculture, points raised by farmers and how to involve more people in agriculture which is not happening at present; b) More study work should be done on food processing in the countries like Bangladesh to utilise the best uses of fruits, vegetables, crops production throughout the year; and (c) Identify the transmission channel for food consumption, like villagers in Malaysia consume their own products and food by farmers. CIRDAP may get some 'best practices' from member countries which, can be disseminated through BARD in Bangladesh.

### **Reducing Post-Harvest Losses and Improving Grain Storage System for Enhancing Food Security**

CIRDAP in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR organised a regional workshop on 'Reducing Post-harvest Losses and Improving Grain Storage System for Enhancing Food Security' in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 28-29 February 2012. There were participants and paper presenters from Lao PDR, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam, Iran and Nepal.

The workshop was inaugurated by H. E. Ty Phommassack, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR as he delivered his welcome address, which was followed by opening remarks of DG, CIRDAP before starting the business session. There were about 60 participants at the workshop who are policymakers, academics, agriculture scientists, experts from private sector service



*Group photograph of the participants*



providers and practitioners. This workshop was participated by various stakeholders at regional level, through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), since MAF is a government ministry, CIRDAP is inter-governmental, Grain Pro Inc./Allied Agro Industries are private, and IRRI is an international organisation.

There were nine papers presented by various stakeholders in the workshop at the first day on 28 February 2012- two from MAF, Lao PDR; one from SNV-Laos; two from IRRI, Philippines; two from Grain Pro Inc. India & Laos; one from Nong lam University Vietnam, and one from Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP.

One of the main objectives of the workshop was: to generate knowledge on food grain and reduction of post-harvest agriculture through discussions and sharing, and to understand the situation by the participation of various stakeholders in light of PPP and improving grain Storage system for enhancing food security.

The second day, on 29 February 2012, there was field visit to Rice and Cash-Crops Research Centre, Napaok, Laos under MAF.



*Field visit on rice drying and storage at Rice and Cash Research Center, MAF, Lao PDR*

## **Rural Women Artisans on Handicrafts for Improvement of Livelihoods**

PPD, CIRDAP organised a 'Skill Development Programme (SDP)' for rural women artisans from 1 April to 30 May 2012 at Shimpur Village under Umratoli Union of Adarsha Sadar Upazila, Comilla District, Bangladesh in association with International Jute Study Group (IJSJ) and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD).

The objective of the project was to improve the livelihoods of rural women in selective rural areas in Bangladesh by developing the handicraft industry. There were four training modules and a total of eight trainers from private sectors, and the duration of the skill development course was three weeks. There was an option of monitoring and providing guidance to produce handicrafts with seed money and equipments and connection with markets for their products. The beneficiaries of skill development programme were 30 women.

An inauguration for skill development programme in connection with an action research project entitled, 'Rural Women Artisans on Handicrafts (Jute & Others) for Improvement of Their Livelihoods' was organised jointly by CIRDAP and IJSJ on 3 April 2012 at Shimpur Village in collaboration with BARD. Dr. Latifa Binte Lutfa, Operations Officer of IJSJ, explained the training modules to the participants, while Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director of PPD, welcomed the participants and delivered a brief background of the project.

The closing programme was attended by Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, under Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C), Government of Bangladesh, as Chief Guest, while Mr. Mir Kashem, Director General of BARD, was present as the Special Guest on 26 April 2012. The function was also participated by Mr. Shahbaz Hossein, representative from IJSG Mr. Abul Hossein and Upazila Chairman Kazi Mozammel Haque. One representative from the trainees Ms. Saiyada Mahfuza Begum also spoke at the function.



Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, RDCD, GoB, visiting the jute products

Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, in his speech, thanked all the stakeholders in this programme, saying that CIRDAP and IJSG started with small thing, only 30 ladies have been trained up, but it must be finished in a big way as jute has a golden past and has a huge future potentiality.

A total of 30 trainees attended the programme. The Chief Guest distributed the certificates to them. At the programme, CIRDAP bought a number of handicraft products produced by the trainees as a first-time buyer to encourage their entrepreneurship.

### **Retaining Rural Children in School through Integrated Health Care Programme**

PPD, CIRDAP organised an Action Research Project on 'Retaining Rural Children in School through Integrated Health Care Programme' during 14-17 April 2012 at Patharghata Upazila in Barguna District. This 'Basic Integrated Health Care Programme (BIHCP)' in Selected Schools consisted of the activities like: (a) Health check-up for school children: e.g. medicine and dental, prescription, health card by qualified medicine and dental doctors; (b) Knowledge generation: i.e. brochure, presentations, books etc.; (c) Feasibility study on supply of safe drinking water: filter, play pump; and (d) Study on Eco-Sanitation; e.g. EcoSan Toilets.



Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director, PPD, welcomed the participants, thanked all of them, especially, people's representatives from the local areas, school teachers, members of school managing committee, district administration and school children. The main objectives of this programme were to create awareness among the school children, teachers (if possible with parents), and to improve the general hygiene of the Rural School Children (RSC) in selective villages, as a pilot basis, to increase the school attendance (to avoid drop-out) in collaboration with local people and schools.

He also spoke on the project background and on choosing the schools in remote coastal area of southern end of Bangladesh, near to Bay of Bengal. The schools chosen are the most needy since Pathergahat Upazila under Barguna District is one of the poor, remote coastal areas and vulnerable to flood and cyclone. There is hygiene-care problem due to lack of knowledge on basic hygiene care, as well as need of treatment facilities, safe water and sanitation. This would be a unique 'tripartite alliance' among the government agencies, rural school children and development partners, he opined.

Mr. Jalal Ahmed, local coordinator, appreciated CIRDAP and the doctor's team for taking this participatory school programme for keeping school children at the school as disease free. He expected there would be more cooperation among the different stakeholders for rural development by taking this kind of integrated health programme as these areas have lack of fresh drinking water due to salinity. He also mentioned about poor sanitation and lack of health-care facilities.

The visiting team consisted of nine project personnel- three qualified physicians (two general practitioners +one dentist), Dr. Shanin Islam, Dr. Sarjina Rahman and Dr. Ahmed Reza Zafari (Shahriar), for health check-up of rural school children and providing free necessary medicine with prescription; three members of PPD team headed by Director PPD, JADE Deputy Representative and a journalist from The Independent, an English newspaper in Bangladesh.

A total about 1800 students of 11 primary school participated in this programme in presence of some guardians, teachers and school managing committee members. Were treated a total of 350 students from different 13 schools who gathered in two schools, namely, Rupdhan Bander Amiria Secondary School and Rupdhan Katakhal Government Primary School. The doctors provided prescriptions and medicines worth about Tk.29,105 free of cost. The medical team found that the diseases like diarrhoea, stomach pain, skin disease, fever, cold, cough and dental problem are common diseases.



*A medicine doctor prescribing medicines to a sick student, and a dentist checking a student's teeth*

Among the doctors, Dr. Shanin Islam delivered lectures on basic hygiene care for knowledge generation and creating health awareness and later on project personnel distributed a total of 1480 hygiene care packs (i.e. tooth brush, paste, shampoo, comb, soapet along with bangle pictorial brochure to show the use of the items to all students, who gathered in the school field. As a dentist, Dr. Ahmed Reza Zafari (Shahriar), briefed on teeth care and oral hygiene maintenance. Accordingly, the doctors briefed and demonstrated how to use the items which were distributed. In the doctors briefing in easy Bangla, the issues came like how to: a) wash hands, b) clean nails, c) push teeth with brush

and tooth paste, d) clean hair, and e) remain clean. The hygiene care packs were distributed in a disciplined and systematic manner.

## Collaboration with Development Partners

PPD has been in process of making relationship with various government agencies, NGOs/INGOs, private sectors and international donor agencies through meetings, dialogues, with an aim to have collaborative programmes on the different issues on rural development and poverty alleviation. Some of these experiences are:

### Peer-to-Peer Learning Initiatives:

The background was to ensure good practices/best experiences by each community in the village which can be shared to other communities at the same level. It needs the Local Government (LG) support just to facilitate. So, the LG can play the main role to organise the knowledge, practice and experience sharing in the grassroots level. In this approach, it is must to create the network among the LG bodies which has to be initiated by themselves. To achieve it, some other facilitators are required.

Bangladesh Government has taken initiative and led the above said group to involve the LG on Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP). The programme is going on in some areas of Bangladesh in Union Parishad (UP) level. UP is the lowest administrative unit to make direct connection to the villagers, mostly farmers.

It is noted here that in Bangladesh, CIRDAP has also become a collaborative member among the 32 organisations (e.g. JICA, WSP, Water Aid, Plan Bangladesh, NGO Forum and SDC) as per Working Committee decision at a meeting held on 6 December 2012.

**HLP Programme in Iran:** CIRDAP believes in decentralisation process and empowerment of local people, so that there is people's participation, partnership and networking in development programme for sustainability and ownership. In fact, PPD has analysed and found that Peer sharing would be very useful and relevant if conducted through HLP in other CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) in collaboration with CLIs, which are mostly the national training and research institutes.

Consequently, to make this collaboration more fruitful, PPD conducted a workshop on Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP), Bangladesh for rural development experts during 26-29 November 2012, with the assistance of Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), CIRDAP Link Institute under Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Iran. A total of 34 participants participated from APERDRI and from different provinces of Iran in the workshop.

Apart from Bangladesh, experiences on peer-to-peer learning from the local communities in the local government, there were lectures on Iranian experiences, e.g. a) experiences on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and b) Farmer's Field School (FFS) from the experts and from the participants from the local provinces.

The participants expressed that HLP workshop was quite useful and successful in terms of knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices in line with peer-to-peer learning initiatives.

### Family Strengthening Programme of SOS Children's Villages:

Pilot Projects implemented an orientation on skill development of Handicrafts with SOS mothers on 17<sup>th</sup> Formal SOS Mother's Training Course at SOS Training Centre in Mirpur, Dhaka on 12 November 2012 with the help of two women trainers. However, PPD has a plan to organise two months skill development programme on handicraft to improve the livelihood of SOS mothers in next year.



## **Improving Grain Storage at Household level for Food Security in Rural Bangladesh:**

PPD already discussed this issues with the possible stakeholders and partners like RDA, BARD, IRRI-Bangladesh, CIMMYT, BADC, Grain Pro Inc. Bangladesh, BRDB, DAE, BARI, BRRI, SAC. It was decided at the meeting with the above mentioned stakeholders that there would be a collaborative one-day workshop on 'Improving Grain Storage at Household level' for Food Security in Rural Bangladesh in RDA, Bogra in mid-December of 2012, and subject to availability of relevant policymakers during Exhibition on Agriculture in near future.

## **Rural Women Artisans:**

PPD had several meetings with the private sector experts in handicrafts business to make further extension or follow-up of previous action research project on Rural Woman Artisans on Handicrafts (Jute & Others) for Improvement of their Livelihoods, in collaboration with IJSG and BARD. Consequently, Director, PPD and other stakeholders from Parul Garden and Peace Foundation made a field visit to JB Networks Co. Ltd, Comilla EPZ on 30 December 2012. The visiting team observed the process of making chopstick/cartage by bamboo which has a demand in China and Japan. So, PPD is planning to link up the women group of Shimpur Village, Comila, Bangladesh with the previous project on Rural Woman Artisans on Handicrafts, so that the project beneficiaries can expand their activities on bamboo products in collaboration with other stakeholders.

## **Field Visit to a Seed Enterprise:**

Hossein Shahbaz, Director, PPD had made an exposure visit to CCDB's programme on seed activities in Shibalo, Manikganj District, Bangladesh on 8 November 2012 along with Mr. Mahbulul Islam, Development Policy Advisor.

Rural women were energetic, spontaneous and very happy in engaging themselves to be the representatives of the community in CCDB's effort on seed programme. Director, PPD appreciated CCDB for introducing its own brand of seeds. However, some observations, on which PPD already communicated with project official of CCDB, were:

- a) Community should be given the responsibility to run the programme at the end of project life time, though CCDB at present is providing all the infrastructure facilities almost free of cost to the beneficiaries.
- b) This would lead women programme beneficiaries to step into real world of seed business by themselves and find it cost-effective;
- c) There should be an option of scientific laboratory testing on issues like ensuring the percentages of germination, controlling the moisture etc;
- d) Regular meetings are found to be very effective on the issues like processing, packaging, distribution, pricing etc., and
- e) Engaging the members in seed production process and quality of seed after the members get training.

## Publications

PPD has finalised the publication on Capacity Building of People's Organisation (CBPO). The CBPO project has been formulated in October 1999 with the help of previous experiences gained from previous two projects and was decided to be implemented in two villages, namely, Ratnabati and Shimpur of Comilla Sadar Thana.

The justification of the project lied in experimenting the concept of comprehensive approach of rural development as well as utilising its potentialities effectively. Other rationale of the project was to bring about a qualitative change in the lifestyles of the villagers by increasing the socioeconomic condition of the villages. At this stage of CBPO project, it was urgently required to assess the effectiveness of the project at the beneficiary level. In order to achieve this necessity, BARD was entrusted with the responsibility of evaluation of the project by three faculty members of BARD. This report is an outcome of such effort.

Also, PPD has prepared the Highlights of Pilot Projects from 2004 to 2012 covering the salient features of the past and recent projects on poverty alleviation and rural development with various issues like people's participation, strengthening local organisations, exchange on best practices on RD and PA, IRD coordination, basic integrated health care of rural school children, and improvement of rural women artisans.



# Training

## Regional Programmes

- Decentralised Governance and Service Delivery through Effective Human Resource Development Strategies
- Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects
- Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and One Tambon One Product
- Geo-Informatic Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices, 3–12 September 2012, NIRD, Hyderabad, India

## Study-cum-Exposure Visits

- Indian Officials Visit Bangladesh on Microfinance
- Indonesia on Mangrove Forests Officials Visit
- Bangladesh Officials Visit Nepal on Participatory Co-Management of Forests
- Indian Secretary Briefed on Microfinance
- Visit of Indian IAS Officers

## Diploma Programme

- Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (Batch-V: 2012-13)

## Focused Areas

- Decentralised governance
- Human resource development
- IRD and PA
- Best practices in rural drinking water and sanitation
- Sufficiency economy
- GIS technology
- MDGs
- Microfinance
- Forest management



In its pursuit, Training Division (TD) was working hard to be vibrant in achieving the main objectives of the Centre by developing Human Resources and building capabilities of rural development functionaries of member countries. During the year 2012, TD has conducted four Regional Training programmes in collaboration with link institutes. These international programmes were focused, thematic and of topical interest. Out of four programmes, three were sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and one by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand. Training topics were identified on the basis of training need assessment and requirements of the member countries.

Training Division was devoted to Study-cum-Exposure Visits. These visits were sponsored by BIRD, India; SEALs Project in Bangladesh and IPAC, Bangladesh.

As a good will gesture to promote Regional Cooperation, the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development has kindly allotted five slots to CIRDAP to recommend suitable in-service candidates from member countries in the one year residential Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) Programme conducted by The National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India. In 2012, five candidates from CMCs have successfully completed the 4<sup>th</sup> batch of the course. Currently five candidates from CMCs are joining the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of PGDRDM course in NIRD, Hyderabad.

## **Regional Programmes**

### **Decentralised Governance and Service Delivery through Effective Human Resource Development Strategies**

In fulfilling the mandates of CIRDAP to assist national endeavours and promote regional cooperation of the Asia-Pacific region, an International Training Programme on 'Decentralised Governance and Service Delivery through effective Human Resource Development Strategies' was held during 19-28 January 2012 at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India. It was funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. There were 21 participants representing 10 member countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam in the programme.

#### **Objectives**

- To share initiatives on decentralised governance systems in participating countries and innovative methods at cutting-edge level of administration:
- To focus on good governance practices, institutional mechanism at the grassroots level, technology interventions like Information technology, e-governance and transparent methods using right to information services for poverty reduction and delivery of services to the rural areas.
- To identify the parameters of HRD and competencies and competency gaps that influence performance of the development officials, henceforth affecting the governance.
- To understand the role of work environment, culture, motivation, communication, conflict and leadership competencies for an efficient human resource development.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M. V. Rao, IAS, Director General, NIRD, and India. In his inaugural address, he expressed that this training programme has come up at the right time for the right people. Now-a-days, developing countries are allocating high budget for rural development, unfortunately, it was not working well due to delivery system and weakness of local governance. So that local governance and its good delivery system are very much important for achieving the goals. At the same time capacity development for the functionaries are also important for success task. DG



urged the participants to take this opportunity of sharing and learning from training programme, so that it can be modified and applied for their country's situation.

During the inaugural programme, Dr S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, mentioned that in the context of the ongoing process of globalisation and economic reforms, decentralisation and community-driven management has acquired special significance. The process of decentralisation enables people to acquire control over decisions that influence their lives. He also referred latest Human Development Report, 2010 by UNDP which focused that decentralisation is more conducive to human development, better service provision and participatory. He mentioned that this thematic programme is topical and need of the hour. There is a need to have strong local government system for participation, accountability, and transparency in the system. Dr. Gyanmudra, Associate Professor and Head, CHRD, NIRD, briefly mentioned about the structure of the training programme and requested the participants for their cooperation.



Group interaction with village Panchayat at Turzapur, Wardha, Maharashtra

Various inputs given in the training programme were – concept and practice of decentralised Government and Human Resources Development, Role of Local Governance, Good Governance, Stress Management for Effective Delivery of Services, IT for RD, etc. To strengthen the knowledge base of the participants and to have hands-on experience, participants were taken for study visit to understand as to how the Decentralised Governance can deliver better services through effective HRD like education, health, protected water supply, sanitation, roads, communications, public distribution system, and other basic civic services on demand-driven basis. The participants presented respective countries local government system and their perspectives. There were fruitful interaction between the participants and resource persons on the subject.

To demonstrate how the decentralised governance comes to the heart of the poor rural people, the participants were taken to different tiers of local administration in the State of Maharashtra, the place called Wardha, which is very famous for inspiration of Gandian approaches. Participants were taken to the Centre of Science for Villages (CSV), Wardha, there they learned the centre activities on Low Cost Housing, Sanitation- Low cost toilets, Low cost Water Filter and Bio-gas Technology. Also they got chance to visit Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI), Wardha. There all participants appreciated the Khadi and textile division's innovative and successful technology

disseminated to the small-scale farmers and producer. Then, they visited Turzapur Panchayath, at Selu Block of Wardha District and realised how the village Panchayat strengthened the body as bottom-up structure. Participants visited the Jalalpur Gram (village) Panchayat of Andhra Pradesh State, had interaction with the Gram Panchayat elected officials.

During Valedictory Session, the participants expressed that the course was invaluable to them, and it provided them opportunity to learn many things and gain deep insights into the subject. The participants were awarded with course completion certificates. During the Valedictory Session, Dr. M. V. Rao, Dr. S. K. Singh, and Dr. Gyanmudra spoke and expressed satisfaction for successfully completion of an important training programme.

## **Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects**

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has funded this training programme to be organised outside India, in one of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). This programme was conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR. The training programme was held at a city hotel in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

There were 17 participants from 13 member countries of CIRDAP, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Sounsath Sayakoummane, Dy. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR.

### **Objectives**

- To enable the participants to critically review the existing management practices and technologies of Rural Drinking water and Sanitation projects in developing countries
- To equip participants with the skills of project design, operation and maintenance (O&M), and management of rural drinking water and sanitation projects
- To explain the process and importance of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in drinking water and sanitation projects
- To expose the participants to the best practices in rural drinking water and sanitation.

In the Inaugural Session, Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, welcomed all the participants and hoped that the representatives from member countries will be able to share their country experiences and will acquire knowledge to improve the situation of safe drinking water and sanitation in their respective countries.

Mr. Sounsath Sayakoummane, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR, in his address, expressed great pleasure for hosting this prestigious international training programme in Lao PDR. He mentioned without safe drinking water and sanitation sustainable development is not possible. In the village many people don't have safe drinking water and in some villages it takes three hours to fetch water from river.

Dr. P. Siva Ram, Coordinator of the training programme from NIRD, proposed vote of thanks.

### **Field Visit**

To familiar the participants with the drinking water and sanitation systems of Lao PDR, a two-day field visit was organised in Vientiane Province. Before going to field visit, the participants were divided into three groups to observe and study the findings in the site and prepare a group report for the benefit of all the participants. On the first day, the participants visited Houiphong Village, Phong Hong District of Vientiane Province. The participants visited Phon Sung Village of Hin Heur District



on the next day. The participants also visited the organic farm of Mr. Phosithat Matmanivong at Thasmo Cillage of Saitane District, Dong Makkhai Water Treatment Plant and the National Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply, Ministry of Health. The group reports of the participants were thematic and focused on reality of the training programme.



*Course completion certificate being awarded*

forum, and NIRD works with the organisations like CIRDAP and AARDO on various issues of rural development.

### **Valedictory Session**

A Valedictory Session was organised on 28 March 2012, the concluding day of the training programme. In the session the participants expressed their views about the programme.

Dr. M. V. Rao, IAS, DG, NIRD, in his valedictory address, mentioned that he felt good to meet all the participants and share experience. He said that CIRDAP is a

## **Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and One Tambon One Product**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government has sponsored CIRDAP to conduct a Regional Workshop on 'Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and One Tambon One Product'. This workshop was organised on 26-30 August 2012 at Chachaeongsao Province and Bangkok.

The workshop was attended by 14 persons from nine CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). In view of the importance of theme of the workshop, the Government of Bangladesh has requested to accommodate five more officials from the flagship programme of the government called 'Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar' (One House One Farm) to be familiarised with scheme and analyse its replicability in the programme.

Moreover, majority of the participants were involved in the implementation of such type of programmes oriented towards enhancing local economy and addressing rural poverty in their respective countries.



*Participants with DG, CIRDAP*

The regional workshop was designed to share experiences of Thailand in implementing the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, as envisaged by the King His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej. His

Majesty propounded innovative concept of Sufficiency Economy as a sustainable way of living and to protect changes that could destabilise economy and social fabric of a country. The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy advocates the balanced way of life for sustainable development of the country based on a middle-path covering family from community to country. This approach will allow a nation to modernise without resisting globalisation and provide a need to offset the negative outcome of rapid economic and cultural changes. Its adaptability is well within existing social and cultural structures in a given community.

This theory has been translated in to programmes and projects on integrated farming systems, community enterprises development and One Tambon One Product (OTOP). Besides sharing the experiences, the workshop envisaged to share experiences of participating CMCs on such programmes relating to rural enterprise as one of the countries strategy for poverty and rural livelihoods.

## **Objectives**

The basic objectives of the workshop were:

- a) to understand and appreciate the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, Royal initiative projects and One Tambon One Product (OTOP);
- b) to discuss and compare such successful projects among the participating CIRDAP member countries;
- c) to consider the replicability of this model in other countries, and
- d) to suggest the measures to further improve the scheme.

The workshop was inaugurated by Ms. Jirawan Yamprayoon, Inspector General, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government. While inaugurating the workshop, she mentioned that agriculture plays a vital role in sustaining the livelihood of people in terms of its contribution to food supply, food security, incomes and employment generation. However, people are now facing climate changes impact, raising of food price, food security, food and energy crops balance and most recently a challenge to feed seven billion people of this world.

She mentioned that despite several political and economic crises, people in Thailand have overcome most obstacles by widely adopted His Majesty the King Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as a guideline to lead their life in proper way by means of moderation, reasonableness and risk management. Moreover, through thousands of Royal development projects, His Majesty has made invaluable contribution to global development discourse. Since knowledge and innovation are the backbone of any development effort, His Majesty has created centres for development in every parts of Thailand. One Tambon One Product is another approach to alleviate the poverty at the community level.

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, in his preliminary remarks, thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government for funding this workshop for selected member countries of CIRDAP and providing an opportunity to understand the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and to gain hands-on experience about the implementation of philosophy in the field. He observed that this programme has given a boost to the rural economy, and quality of life of rural people have changed and rural areas have become embodiment of growth.

After inauguration of the workshop, three presentations from Thailand were organised, namely, the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, Royal Initiative Projects on Agriculture, and Small and Micro-community Enterprise. Subsequently, country presentations from participating countries were organised in order to share their experiences.

Besides classroom sessions and discussions, the participants were taken to Khao Hin Sorn Royal Development Study Centre. The visit was highly fruitful and participants could see the successful entrepreneurship and also the impact after acquiring knowledge and learning experience.



*The participants' observations are as follows:*

Both thematic groups observed that the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy is the major driving force that saved Thailand from the global economic crisis in 1997. It was initiated by His Majesty The King Bhumibol Adulyadej continuing for more than 30 years which has greatly shaped the socioeconomic condition of the Kingdom. As a result, Thailand is the main producer of wide range of agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, livestock, and fishery.

The philosophy indeed operates in the simplest manner where the people are required to practise the balance way of living in moderation. Besides, the people need to acquire acknowledge about the global modernisation and internally prepares the nation from the negatives impacts of global economy.

The establishment of The Royal Development Study Centers (RDSC) in the six main regions in the kingdom has greatly benefited the people of Thailand especially the rural community. These 'living museums' are the main focal point of the local and rural community, especially farmers and small enterprises to learn pragmatically the philosophy through live demonstrations, application of production techniques, and resource conservation.

The group felt that the philosophy and OTOP can be considered for replication in other member countries of CIRDAP as it has given fillip to rural economy and social mobilisation.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP and Mr. Kasem Prasutsangchan, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government.

## **Geo-Informatic Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices**

CIRDAP has been sharing the rich experiences, best practices, process methodologies and demonstrative models designed and developed in India, with its member countries. For the benefit of member countries, CIRDAP has been organising a series of training programmes, and they are participating in such programmes held at NIRD, Hyderabad. The evaluation of earlier programme by the participants rated such programmes very high and suggested to organise more programmes for the benefits of developing countries.

CIRDAP in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, organised an International Training Programme on 'Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices' on 3-12 September 2012. The programme was sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. It was attended by 28 officers from 14 CIRDAP member countries.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the programme include:

#### **Specific:**

- a) To study the geo-informatics best practices, pilots, projects and programmes in India, and to identify the potential areas where the GIS applications can play a key role in CIRDAP member countries, from India's experiences;
- b) To exchange ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing the GIS 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 CIRDAP country level.

### General:

- a) To promote effective networking among the relevant institutions in the countries of the region and to address common challenges, mitigation and issues and promote information sharing and for South-South cooperation;
- b) To present case studies on application of the geo-informatics in rural development, natural resources, disaster management and governance and disseminate the same at the regional level; and
- c) To strengthen capacity building efforts of member countries through training so as to accelerate application of geo-informatics application in the region to achieve MDGs.



Participants of GIS Application in RD

The programme was designed to provide the new software packages developed in India. The participants were given inputs like remote sensing, application of geo-informatic in agriculture, water resources, disaster management, etc. The participants presented their country papers covering the latest knowledge and application of geo-informatic system in their country and its application in rural development.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M. V. Rao, IAS, Director General, NIRD. In his inaugural address, DG highlighted the importance of geo-informatic system. He mentioned that India has different types of satellites which provide sophisticated and high resolution data and pictures that help in planning any development programme in the country.

The participants were taken for a study visit to Karnataka State. During the study visit in Karnataka, participants visited 'Genesys International', a pioneer agency in geospatial services. They are using new technologies like LiDAR, photogrammetric Mapping, Orthophoto Mapping, using airborne sensors.

At the end of the programme, Director General CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi, delivered valedictory address and expressed his gratitude to the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, for sponsoring such important programme for the benefit of CIRDAP member countries. He mentioned that this provides an opportunity to the senior and middle-level officers who are



dealing with the subject to acquire latest technology and know-how in the field of geo-informatic system. He also mentioned that presentation from each country provides an opportunity to know the level of development in software and identify gaps which can be filled through this type of programme.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Madhava Rao, Professor and Head, Centre on Geoinformatics Application in Rural Development (C-GARD), NIRD and Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP. Besides, Dr. R. R. Herman, Associate Professor and Dr. Keshava Rao, Asst. Professor, C-GARD of NIRD were Associate Coordinators of the programme.

## Study-cum-Exposure Visits

### Indian Officials Visit Bangladesh on Microfinance

The innovative poverty-focused group based financing of micro-enterprises through microcredit is well established phenomenon particularly in developing countries. Microfinance institutions are functioning as specialised institutions for giving credit to the poor. In Bangladesh, such institutions have grown rapidly. Some of them are Grameen Bank, Association for Social Advancement (ASA), The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), BURO etc.

CIRDAP is facilitating to study and observe these initiatives to those who are dealing with it. At the instance of the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India, a Study-cum-Exposure Visit programme was conducted during 3-10 February 2012 in Bangladesh. This programme was attended by the 10 senior officials from Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), BIRD, State Bank of India and other national banks and microfinance institutions (MFIs). The focus of the programme was to understand and appreciate the microfinance in Bangladesh and to gain insights into the ground realities. activities of the above visit were mainly focused on exposure of participants to the individual/group activities of microcredit at the grassroots level as well as in centre level for learning and exchanging of information. These include briefing and interaction with the groups of beneficiaries.



Group photograph

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, and CIRDAP on 4 February 2012 at the CIRDAP Headquarters. While welcoming the participants, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal mentioned that the CIRDAP plays an important role in capacity building of senior functionaries from the members countries as per the regional needs of rural development activities. CIRDAP has been organising such programmes regularly for sharing experiences and learning lesson from each others. He suggested active participation in field level interaction and curiously observing the implementation procedures of MFIs. He also urged the participants to share their experiences to understand the contribution of microfinance in the economy of the country.

Dr. S. K. Singh, Director Training of CIRDAP, briefed the participants about the objectives and methodology of the programme. He elaborated the different activities of the programme during the next few days. He mentioned that the programme schedule is tight and hastic to get maximum benefit in a short duration. He suggested making a comparison between countries situation relating to microfinance.

The participants had classroom discussions from eminent experts in the field of microfinance. As a part of the exposure visit, they were taken to the organisations like ASA HQs, Grameen HQs, and BRAC HQs and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) at Comilla. The participants were briefed about these institutions by resource persons.

The classroom sessions were addressed by professionals from CIRDAP, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Grameen Bank, ASA, BARD, and NGO Affair Bureau, Microfinance Regulatory Authority (MRA) about the microcredit operation in Bangladesh. 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's groups in selected villages at Dhamran Upazilla of Savar Area near Dhaka.

Subsequently, the participants visited Charpu Women Labour Organisation, near Comilla, which was one of rural poverty alleviation programme conducted by BRAC. The participants took keen interest to learn the organisation programme like group formation, microcredit, income-generating activities, and capacity building programmes. Also they were taken to health awareness programme and primary school which is run by BRAC. Also, participants were observed the Comilla BRDB project site, where they interacted with the members of Saikot Uttar Para Assestless Women's Society, Chandina Village.

### **Valedictory Session**

The Valedictory Session of the programme was held on 9 February 2012, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal chaired the session. He congratulated the participants on successfully completion of the programme and hoped that experiences gained by the delegates would be very useful in their back home situations. He assured that CIRDAP would always be there to serve its members countries in any effort of rural development and poverty alleviation and suggested that similar exposure programme to other member countries will also be arranged by CIRDAP for regional cooperation among the member countries.



## Bangladesh Officials Visit Indonesia on Mangrove Forests

The Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihoods Securities (SEALS) Project, Khulna, Bangladesh has sponsored a Study-cum-Exposure visit for senior officers from Bangladesh on Mangrove Forests and Livelihoods. This programme was conducted from 23-29 February 2012 in Indonesia. Ten senior officers were drawn from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Planning Commission, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED) and Forest Department of the Government of Bangladesh.

This programme was organised by the Training Division of CIRDAP in collaboration with the International Finance Institution and International Organisation Cooperation of the Center for Administration of International Cooperation (AKLN) under the Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia.

Mr. Gunawan, MA, Head of Centre for the Administration of Overseas Cooperation, briefed the participants about the role of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia. He mentioned that in Indonesia the planning process has been decentralised and they have bottom-up approach. Subsequently, the participants visited the Directorate of Regional Cooperation, where they were briefed about the policies of the government on Mangrove and Environment Management. This organisation is doing mangrove research and conservation in Indonesia. It was mentioned that mangroves are considered as potential capital which serve as securing resilience of vulnerable coasts of Indonesia. However, over a period of time, mangrove forests were lost due to conservation of natural disasters, inappropriate restoration, lack of understanding of values. Now the government has a very clear policies to conserve mangrove forests research are conducted in order to conserve and restore mangrove forests.



Interaction with local communities in Indonesia

The participants were taken to Malang under the Pasuruan Regency to see mangrove forests and had discussions with the district officials of East Java Province. They also had discussions with local officials, ecotourism department and villagers. This mangrove forest was established by the individual efforts of Mr. Mokarim in order to prevent tidal surge and storm. Because of the efforts of the local communities, income has increased by many folds. Two main species have been planted. These are grown under the supervision of Department of Tourism, Department of environment and Department of Forests. The participants also visited to a dairy farm in the village of Tutar in Naongkojajar District. This dairy farm is managed by the community and has been started in the forest area and the residents of the forest are getting a lot of benefit from this cooperative. The participants also visited one apple garden in the forest area which is community empowered agro-farming and tourism centre. This is also a unique experience that, in the forest area, the centre has been developed, which is providing a lot of opportunity to the forest dwellers.

Dr. S. K. Singh, Director and Dr. K. C. Sharma, team leader, also spoke on the occasion, and some of the members of the delegates spoke and expressed their feed back on the exposure visit. The Director General distributed the certificates to the participants.

### **Observations and Lessons**

The focus of the study-cum-exposure visit is three fold that includes, inter alia, to understand policies and programmes of the government with respect to management of mangrove forest, livelihoods in forest areas, and, to have hands-on experience about available best practices in the country on these issues so as to gain some insights and ground realities which can be emulated in the project area of Sundarban in Bangladesh.

Keeping in view the basic objective of the Study-cum-Exposure visit, the group had visited mangrove forest in Penunggul in Nguleng District of Pasuruan Regency in the East Java Province of Indonesia. The mangrove forest is spread over to 27 hectares and was developed by afforestation since 1986. This mangrove forest has unique and distinct features, and because of that it has been recognised as a model mangrove forest and has been selected for national award given by the President of Indonesia. The visit of the group to this forest was apt because there are many learning points emerging from this model. The idea to develop mangrove in this locality has emerged from the people's involvement, which was initiated by one villager, namely, Mr. Mokarim. He felt that people living in this area are regularly suffering from storm surge, sea water entering into the houses and other disadvantages of coastal area. In order to mitigate the effects of such natural disaster, he took the initiative to organise people of the locality on these issues, and it was decided that they will start developing mangrove forest in the locality to prevent natural disaster like cyclone, storm surge, etc. People came forward and participated in the programme and started planting saplings initially in six hectares of land. People decided that these saplings are to be protected initially by the community, and subsequently these trees will protect them. On this philosophy, this work started and they have grown various species of mangroves, trees. Over a period of time from 1986 onward, it has spread over to 27 hectares. Another striking feature is that the programme was also funded by the people as no other agency provided funds when they decided to launch this programme. Now families living in this locality are collecting fish, shell, minor forest produce, etc. from that mangrove forest area and sell it in the market. This has increased the income of the people in this locality. This all has come because of direct participation of people at the planning stage, subsequently, executing it, and finally participation in sharing of the fruits of the programme.

Interestingly, another distinct feature is the involvement of local government system, apart from people. The local government system is responsible for providing services to the people.

In order to sustain this programme, the community has been grouped into three categories, in which one group is from the younger generation. The younger generation is also being trained and involved in this entire process so that there should not be any void or generation gap to take the scheme forward by the next generation, since it is completely managed by the community.

In the course of discussion with the community and other stakeholders, it was pointed out that whatever material is collected from the mangrove area like fish, shell and various minor forest produces is not properly. Therefore, people are not getting proper price. This is an important policy issue and intervention of administration is required to develop network of marketing of those produces so that people will get appropriate price and thereby the income level will increase.

### **Emerging Policy Issues**

- Involvement of people and community at the local level is imperative and indigenous ideas and wisdom should find space in policy formulation. Managing scheme by the local community living in that proximity is high practical, and once the government intervention is withdrawn, it is the community which will sustain it.



- It was felt necessary to conduct a scoping study to ascertain potentials of the area and valuable resource base, natural or otherwise. This will help to determine what type of processing industry can be established at the local level for value addition to the produce to fetch market and good income.
- A systematic database has to be developed for analysis, to see trends in development. It will help to improve the situation and that will be a good input in policy formulation.
- Livelihood opportunities are to be diversified. For this, local community has to be organised and on the basis of the available potential in the area, it has to be determined. Each area has its own speciality, and therefore, a survey has to be made to determine what type of livelihood will be more suitable for that locality and people, and accordingly capacity building has to be done.

## Bangladesh Officials in Nepal on Participatory Co-Management of Forests

The Integrated Protected Area Co-Management Project (IPAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh sponsored a study visit on participatory co-management of forests and protected areas and wetland in Nepal to the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka. The focus of the study visit, inter alia, was to capture best practices available in Nepal with regard to community management of forests and protected areas and wetlands and biodiversities, and to have hands-on experience to gain insights and know ground realities so that it can be compared with the prevailing situation in Bangladesh, and, if possible, how it can be replicated. A group of 13 officers participated in this programme. They were drawn from the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh and IPAC.



Group photograph of the participants

The programme was organised by the Training Division of CIRDAP, and at the local level it was coordinated by the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal. This programme was conducted during 15-21 April 2012.

A programme schedule was designed to cover its objectives, that is, to understand the policies of the government pertaining to participatory forest and wetland management, biodiversity conservation, fisheries and to see the ground realities through focussed group discussions with the communities and officials, etc. To cover these aspects, the group was taken to Chitwan National Park, a few community managed forests and a few sites of wetland management at Pokhara. The group had an opportunity to discuss issues with the Scientists of the Fisheries Research Centre, Pokhara and discuss with community about lake management and its impact on livelihoods of the community. These innovative practices provided a good deal of insights and ground realities about the planning, management and programme implementation.

A briefing session was organised on 12 April 2012 at CIRDAP, which was attended by the nominees and officials of IPAC, namely, Chief of the Party, Mr. Reed Merrill, Deputy Chief of the Party, Dr. Ram A. Sharma. While addressing the nominees, the Chief of the Party, Mr. Reed Merrill mentioned that IPAC is providing a good opportunity to understand and appreciate various facets of participatory co-management of forests in other country. He outlined the importance of the programme and basic objectives, expected outcome and put emphasis on making it professionally purposeful and successful. He was hopeful that professional gains and learning by this visit will be useful and utilised for the better implementation of IPAC programme in Bangladesh.

Dr. Ram Sharma shared his earlier experiences from such visit and Dr Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, highlighted innovative practice of forest management by the community in Nepal. He made suggestions to observe things very minutely in the field and compare with Bangladesh situation and derive suitable measures to improve the programme. In the briefing session, programme schedule was discussed along with the arrangements in Nepal and other modalities. This programme was coordinated by Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP.

## **Indian Secretary Briefed on Microfinance**

A high-level delegation headed by Mr. S. Vijay Kumar, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, visited CIRDAP to acquaint themselves with the microfinance in Bangladesh as well as to see some rural infrastructure and schemes of Government of Bangladesh towards rural livelihoods. The delegation comprises Mr. T. Vijay Kumar, Joint Secretary (Rural Livelihood), Ministry of Rural Development; Dr. I. K. Pateria, Director, Projects II and In-Charge Director (Technical), NRRDA and Dr. V. Machava Rao, Associate Professor and Head, Centre on Geoinformatics Application in Rural Development (C-GARD), NIRD. The visit was during 3-6 June 2012.

During visit the delegation had detailed discussions with the Director General, CIRDAP and other professionals about the activities and support to CIRDAP from the Government of India. The Secretary to the Government of India appreciated the work done by CIRDAP and assured further support from the government. He also discussed the progress of establishment of ICT Centre at CIRDAP, which is funded by the Government of India.

Besides, the delegation had discussions with the team of officials of Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh and had also discussions with the Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh. The delegation visited Grameen Bank and had discussions with the Acting Managing Director; President of Association for Social Advancement (ASA) and Executive Director of Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC). He was briefed about the microfinance activities of these institutions. The delegation had also discussions with the Managing Director of Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF). The delegation had also meeting with the Chief Engineer along with senior officials of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), and the delegation was very much impressed of the working of the department particularly in the field of rural infrastructure. The team also visited Savar where they met the microcredit group of BRAC and other social activities of BRAC like health. The team also visited Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) at Savar. They also had meeting with Economic Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh. This visit was coordinated by the Training Division, CIRDAP.



## Visit of Indian IAS Officers

At the instance of High Commission of India, Dhaka, a group of 15 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers visited CIRDAP on 5 November 2012. These officers are undergoing induction training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, India. As a part of training, the group came to Bangladesh for exposure visit.

While welcoming the delegates, Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, mentioned that level of development among CIRDAP member countries are at variance. Nevertheless, rural development is high on the national agenda of the government in Asia-Pacific region. To alleviate poverty, several programmes are being implemented. He expressed thanks to the High Commission of India, Dhaka for sending a group of senior officers to know about innovative practices in Bangladesh. He also highlighted that Bangladesh is the hub of microfinance, and it has made impact in lives of the rural poor. He suggested the group to visit some of the villages and discuss with the people about planning and implementation of rural development programmes in Bangladesh.



Group photograph of the participants

Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, presented a comparative view of rural livelihoods among CIRDAP member countries and highlighted critical indicators that may be considered while formulating public policy addressing livelihood opportunity for the rural poor. He also shared some of the best practices among the member countries that could be considered for replication. Some members of the delegation were happy with such reference and observed that things can also be attempted in their work place. The discussion was very lively and delegates participated in the discussion sharing their own experience and seeking clarification on some critical issues. At the end of the programme, the coordinator of the group proposed vote of thanks to CIRDAP and expressed that their visit to CIRDAP was valuable, and they can learn many good things which can be considered while formulating policies and programmes of the government.

The programme was coordinated by the Training Division, CIRDAP.

## Diploma Programme

### Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (Batch-V: 2012-13)

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI) has allotted five slots to CIRDAP to select and recommend in-service candidates from member countries to participate in one year residential Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India.

This programme is fully funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI), that includes course fee, subsistence allowance and international travel. CIRDAP has selected five candidates from Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka for the programme (Batch – V: 2012-2013). The programme commenced on 12 August 2012 and it will conclude on July 2013. The candidates are officials nominated by the respective countries, and they were selected among other nominees on the basis of prescribed norms, aptitude and other eligibility criteria. The candidates selected for the programme are:



CIRDAP nominees with Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP

1. Mr. Ropate Rakadi Tuikenawa, Fiji
2. Mr. Milicheor Ronald Abanit Asa, Indonesia
3. Dr. Noraini binti Ab. Rahman, Malaysia
4. Mr. Kerwin B Pasoc, Philippines
5. Mr. W. G. T. W. M. R. K Daulagala, Sri Lanka

Earlier, for the IV Batch, 2011-12 year, CIRDAP has also recommended five candidates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Philippines for the Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM). They have successfully completed the course and were awarded Post-Graduate Diploma. All CIRDAP nominees fared very well in the examination and scored high marks. As informed, after returning back-to-office, they were given important assignment and higher responsibilities by respective governments in order to utilise their gained-knowledge and practical experiences in development endeavour of the member countries.



## *Information and Communication*

- Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination
- Meetings/Seminars/Workshops
- ICT Support and Services
- Library Services
- Public Relations

### **Focused Areas**

- New publications
- Disseminating knowledge
- Establishing CIRDAP ICT Centre
- Special issue of APJORD on decentralisation
- Training on IEC, communication strategies
- Collaborative issues
- Youth in development
- Strengthening public relations



During the year 2012, Information and Communication Division (ICD) played a key role in generating knowledge, information management and dissemination. The activities of the division have been strengthened with several valuable publications, redesigned website, enhanced connectivity with the member countries, and collaboration between the governmental and international organisations.

ICD coordinated a special Foundation Day Lecture on occasion of the 33rd CIRDAP Foundation Day programme on 5 July 2012 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. Bharatratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former president of India delivered the foundation day lecture on 'Sustainable Development System for Asia-Pacific'. A programme folder and the lecture of Dr. Kalam were printed on this occasion.

In this year, ICD has also enlisted its printers for two years- 2012 and 2013 for overall general printing works of CIRDAP.

The activities of ICD can broadly be categorised into following types:

- Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination
- Meetings/Seminars/Workshops
- ICT Support and Services
- Library Services
- Public Relations

## Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

In 2012, ICD strengthened its efforts to generate knowledge, its management and dissemination. In terms of quantity, the publications generated is not much, but in terms of quality, these can be added to the knowledge storage of the world.

ICD brought out two important publications: *Microfinance in Select Countries of Asia-Pacific Region* and *Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects*. The regular publications were: four issues of the quarterly CDD (CIRDAP Development Digest)- 127, 128, 129 and 130; two issues of APJORD (Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development)- July and December issue of 2012; and Annual Report 2012. It has also brought out a special supplement on '100 Bangladesh Youths Visit to India'.

ICD has started compiling the Best Practices on Rural Development in CIRDAP Member Countries – which were presented in the TC-27 meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June 2012. The edited volume is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2013.

### Special Issue on Decentralisation

The Vol. XXII No 1 (July 2012) issue of APJORD was a special issue on 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development'.

The issue has been designed to highlight status and innovations, and diverse decentralised approaches to rural development being practised by member countries, and to find out how these decentralised approaches to rural development were brought in; what the potential for their replication and sustainability is; and how new policy interventions could be thought of to improve more innovative practices at local level.

In the last three decades, a wave of decentralisation swept across the globe in public sector governance and as a development strategy. In the Asia-Pacific region, many countries have embarked on some form of decentralisation reforms with diverse motives and approaches. However, the basic premise has been to move decision making for local public services closer to the people, increase efficiency, and encourage effective participation and greater private sector contribution, among others.



To postulate as 'think tank' of its member countries, CIRDAP has been periodically organising a series of thematic Regional Policy Dialogues. These Policy Dialogues are on topical issues, relevant, contextual for rural development and demand driven.

The fifth dialogue in the series was designed to present a specialised paper on four critical sub-themes emanating from decentralisation. The themes identified were:

1. Conceptual Framework of Decentralise Development
2. Capacity Building for Local Governance
3. Experimentation of New Models and Products
4. ICT in Decentralised Approach to RD and PA

The APJORD special issue is based on and draws insights from the papers submitted by experts on the above themes culled out from country reports and presented in the dialogue held in Tehran, Iran on 12 December 2011.

It is expected that this Special Issue of APJORD will publicise these experiences, ideas and thoughts, which, in turn, will be an incentive for more innovations among the member countries.



## 42nd Meeting of the APJORD Editorial Board

The 42nd Meeting of the Editorial Board (EB) of APJORD (Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development) was held on 16 October 2012 in the CIRDAP Conference Room. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP and Chairperson, APJORD Editorial Board, chaired the meeting. Among the APJORD Editorial Board members were present: Mrs. Tahrunnessa Abdullah, Development Consultant; Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Professor, University of Dhaka; Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC; Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, Training, CIRDAP; Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director, PPD, CIRDAP; and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division (ICD), CIRDAP and Editor, APJORD.

## TAG Meetings

Two Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings were held in May and October 2012. TAG discussed the Research Division report on the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue held in Iran in December 2011. On 30 July 2012, Training division forwarded a report of the training programme on 'Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects' to ICD for publication, which is being processed after discussion in TAG.

## Meetings/Seminars/Workshops

### Training on Communication Strategy for Agriculture Officials in Bangladesh

National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) requires an effective and dynamic communication strategy for achieving its development objectives. To strengthen the linkage among different stakeholders of NATP, particularly among researchers, extension service providers and farmers, PCU and other implementing Units (IUs) should gradually establish two-way communications approach in order to be able to move the project activities in right direction. NATP should see communication as an essential vehicle in achieving the project goal and objectives.

To implement the communication strategy, personnel involved in the process are to be trained. So, a Training Programme Module was developed by CIRDAP and NATP with the following components:

- Communication needs of NATP
- Definition of communication and elements of communications.
- Process of development of communication strategy - target audience, message, channel and matrix.
- Process of testing the appropriateness of the messages and preparing the messages for different media
- Analysing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of present communication system
- Communication action plan
- Process of monitoring and evaluation

A three-day module comprising these components was organised in two batches i.e. first batch was from 3 to 5 January and the second batch was from 10 to 12 January 2012.



DG, CIRDAP addressing the agri-officials

Senior Agricultural officers under NATP participated in the training programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Project Director, NATP. The senior Directors of the different divisions of NATP also participated in the inauguration.

The programme methodology mainly comprised brief lectures followed by extensive exercises. As a result the participants were able to prepare the communication strategy plan for their respective divisions.

The valedictory session was addressed by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP who stressed the need for Government of Bangladesh to use the expertise of CIRDAP professionals. Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training, CIRDAP also addressed the second batch of participants. He urged the participants to establish rapport with the target group before communicating any important information. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director ICD in CIRDAP, along with Dr. Md. Matiar Rahman, Short-term Consultant for Communication Strategy Development & Course Coordinator, and Dr. Abul Mansur Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka.

### **CIRDAP Discusses Collaborative Issues with India**

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP, visited India, a member country of CIRDAP, from 12 to 15 September 2012 with a view to strengthening cooperation with the member country. They met several government and inter-governmental officials and discussed issues of mutual interest. Director General and DCD, CIRDAP met Mr. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, and discussed various issues.





DG, CIRDAP (R) with Secretary (YA), GoI, Ms. Nita Chowdhury and Mr. Micheal Veda Siromany, Director, RGNIYD

DG, CIRDAP and DICD also met Secretary, Ms. Nita Chowdhury, Ministry Youth Affairs And Sports, Government of India and Mr. Micheal Veda Siromany, Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD).

DG, CIRDAP had a meeting with the Secretary General, AARDO on 13 September 2012. The Secretary General thanked CIRDAP for inviting him to the 27th CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June 2012. He shared the information that as a consequence of his attending the meeting and discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka has become a member of AARDO. Indonesia is also on the way of joining. DG, CIRDAP mentioned that CIRDAP and AARDO should work more in cohesion as they have common goal of promoting RD in the region.

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran had a separate meeting with the Directors -Research, Training and IEC of AARDO. During this meeting, she suggested that AARDO and CIRDAP could pool their resources and expertise to conduct studies which will be useful to both the organisations to understand the field issues in the member countries.



DG, CIRDAP (L) meets Director, International Youth Centre, New Delhi

## **CIRDAP, AIT Discuss Ways to Improve Quality of Journal**

Director, Information and Communication Division (ICD), CIRDAP, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, visited the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand from 16 to 19 July 2012 to discuss several collaborative issues, such as, AIT attachment with CIRDAP journal APJORD, collaboration for International Conference and sabbatical programme with AIT.

Dr. Vasanthi met the members of the Faculty of Regional and Rural Development Planning (RRDP) viz. Dr. Jayant K. Routray, Professor and Coordinator, RRDP and Dr. Mokbul M. Ahmed, Associate Professor and held detailed discussions on CIRDAP-AIT collaboration for enhancing the quality of APJORD.

Director, ICD informed the AIT faculty members that CIRDAP is keen on enhancing the quality of APJORD by broadening its Editorial Board by including Rural Development experts from the 15 CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) and also beyond the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Vasanthi made a presentation about CIRDAP in general and APJORD in particular at a full-fledged meeting with all the faculty members of RRDP. She also made a presentation on the proposal for a Conference on Rural Development on the 21st Century.

She discussed with AIT regarding AIT's support to providing logistical assistance to the Research Scholars, Internees, Professional Faculty etc. under the Regional Cooperation Fund. Dr. Routray expressed that AIT will be able to offer student's accommodation at the cost that is being charged to the students of AIT which is quite nominal.

RRDP is collaborating with United Nation University and University of Hawaii, Manoa and organising a virtual course for three months on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance. AIT would be interested in identifying CIRDAP as a centre for organising this course to benefit the CMCs if CIRDAP is interested to facilitate the conduct of this course.

## **NIRD Team Visits RD Institutions**

A team of NIRD staff made an exposure visit to Bangladesh during 24 to 30 June 2012. The purpose of the visit was to expose the NIRD staff to successful and innovative rural development models for replication by NIRD. The four member team was lead by Dr. M. Murugesan, Associate Professor, NIRD. The team visited the Rural Development Academy (RDA) in Bogra and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla. The team was particularly interested in replicating their successful biogas energy projects in NIRD. CIRDAP coordinated the arrangements for the exposure visit. It may be mentioned that NIRD is the link institution of CIRDAP in India.



NIRD team at RDA, Bogra



## Training on Preparing IEC Strategies for Rural Development

A 'Regional Training-cum-Workshop on IEC Strategies for Rural Development' was held during 5-10 November 2012 at NIRD, Hyderabad, India. The programme was inaugurated by Director General of NIRD Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS.



*DG, NIRD Dr. M. V. Rao inaugurating the workshop*

In his address, Dr. Rao mentioned that this programme was organised for the first time as a collaborative effort between CIRDAP and NIRD. He stated that NIRD will be organising more programmes on need-based themes with CIRDAP for the South Asian countries. He highlighted the facts that in this age of exploding information, the rights and entitlements of the people living in the rural areas could be realised if they are empowered with information. The 'elite syndrome' must be eliminated, and the benefits of the development programmes must reach the poor in the rural areas.

At the workshop, the participants presented their country papers which enabled them to understand and learn about the communication strategies being practised by the different countries in the rural areas.

### Technical Session

The Technical Session began with a presentation by the Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division of CIRDAP on 'Key Elements of IEC Strategies for Rural Development' based on which the participants were asked to prepare information, education and communication (IEC) campaign on the issues relevant to their respective countries.

A presentation on 'Understanding Rural Livelihoods and Inequalities' was made by Dr. Venkatadiri, Professor and Head (CRI), NIRD. This was followed by sessions on how to prepare messages through various media such as interpersonal medium, print media, electronic media and through the information communication technologies.

The Director of 'Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP)' made a presentation on how the messages are delivered at the village level using the interpersonal methods. The Director of the state owned television channel 'Doordarshan (DD)' handled a session on how to prepare messages for the rural people through the television. Professor, Media studies from the University of Hyderabad, made a presentation on how to use the Community Radio to effectively communicate with the local communities.

To equip the participants with skills to prepare IEC materials, there was a half-day hands-on session on Photoshop. Video presentations were also made to inform the participants on how to make short spots/films on rural issues like rain water harvesting by Dr. Sivaram, Associate Professor, NIRD. A presentation was also made by Dr. Rajanikant, Associate Professor, NIRD on how to use social mobilisation as an IEC tool.

Finally, a session on how to monitor and evaluate communication campaigns/projects was done by Dr. B. Chakravarty, Professor, M&E, NIRD. All the sessions dealt by the identified resource persons were highly appreciated by the participants who found it very useful.

The participants were divided into seven groups to prepare IEC campaigns on various issues. The IEC materials prepared by the participants were validated and pre-tested during the field visit to a village in Chevella block near Hyderabad. The revised IEC campaigns were presented in the Valedictory Session which was presided over by the Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP on 10 November 2012.

The Programme was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, ICD, CIRDAP and Dr. P. Sivaram, and Dr. Gangi Reddy, Associate Professors, NIRD.

### **Regional Conference on 'Youth in Development'**

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division (ICD), CIRDAP, discussed youth in development issues with Ms. Nita Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), Government of India, on 13 December 2012 in New Delhi, India. They also thanked her for approving the Regional Conference/Consultation on 'Youth in Development: Policies and Programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region', to be held during 26-28 February 2013 in RGNIYD. Ms. Chaudhri appreciated CIRDAP for bringing out a Special Supplement on 'Bangladesh Youth Delegation Visit to India'. Through this Special Supplement, CIRDAP welcomes the initiative by the Government of India to invite 100 Bangladeshi youths to visit India, and analyses the impact of the visit.

#### **Presentation on HLP**

DG and DICD made a presentation on Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP) and Hackathon, best practices of Bangladesh before the Programme Committee meeting of the MoYAS which was coordinated by Ms. Sharada Ali, Joint Secretary, MoYAS. The idea of 'Peer Learning' on which HLP is based and using the young IT Professionals to create applications for Youth-related issues by organising Hackathons, appealed to all the members of the Programme Committee.

### **ICT Support and Services**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) wing of ICD efficiently and sincerely rendered its services to the Centre and its member countries. Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals were maintained without any hindrance throughout the year. About 40 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professionals are being maintained. CIRDAP operates its online set-up in collaboration with Google and Accesstel (BD) Ltd.

#### **Establishment of ICT Centre**

An ICT Centre has been established at the newly built CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) at the Centre's HQs in Dhaka. Government of India has released Rs.86,000,00 to NIRD for the ICT Centre.



Dr. M. V. Rao, Director General of National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) of India visited CIRDAP on 20 April 2012. He was accompanied by other senior Officials of NIRD. In CIRDAP he met Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP and other professional staff of the Centre including the members of the Core Committee for CIRDAP ICT Centre. He discussed at length the possibilities of further collaboration between CIRDAP and NIRD.

Dr. M. V. Rao and the NIRD team visited the premises of the ICT Centre at the newly built CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) located at the Centre's Headquarters in Dhaka. The ICT Centre is being established at CIRDAP with the financial assistance from the Government of India and technical assistance from NIRD.

During discussion, Dr. M.V. Rao mentioned that NIRD and CIRDAP have been working closely together for a long time. There is scope for further enhancing and strengthening the collaboration. He invited CIRDAP to submit proposals for training, research and action research in which NIRD is willing to sponsor.

Dr. Durga Paudyal mentioned that Government of India's contribution to establishing the ICT Centre shows its commitment to CIRDAP's cause of rural development. He appreciated the vital role played by NIRD in facilitating the several collaborative international training programmes sponsored by the Government of India for CIRDAP member countries. He also mentioned that NIRD should also be involved in the operationalising of the CIRDAP ICT Centre in the next phase.

On 21-22 April 2012, DG NIRD visited the Rural Development Academy (RDA) in Bogra. There he had meeting with the Director General of RDA and RDA faculty members. He made field visits to some project sites of RDA in Bogra.

The other senior officials of NIRD, including Dr. V. Madhava Rao had several follow-up meetings with the Core Committee for CIRDAP ICT Centre at the Centre's Headquarters during 21-23 April 2012.



DG, NIRD visiting CIRDAP ICT Centre

## Library Services

Basic library services- current Awareness Service, Selected Dissemination of Information, Referral services, Reference services, Bibliography services, photocopy services, Reading room services etc, were carried out during the year. Regular library activities (e.g. accessioning books and other library resources, processing of library materials, database entry and update, shelving books/ periodicals/ newspapers etc.) were also carried out.

### Newspaper Clippings

It is compressive information services for researchers and experts interested in rural and poverty alleviation in Asia-Pacific region. Newspaper clippings mainly focus on Agrarian development, Institutional/Infrastructural development, Resource development including human resources and Employment.

- Free electronic periodicals have been further strengthened. Hard copy of newspaper clippings was printed and send it to CMC's library.
- CAL newspaper clippings services are sending to the professional staff of CIRDAP after 15 days in every month.
- New folders on climate change and global warming, water, ICT as well as decentralisation.

### Publication Exchange Programme

CIRDAP publication exchange programme has been expanded. More important institutes have been added to the list.

### Books Purchase

- a) The reference section has updated with buying more books on rural development issues from member countries of CIRDAP.
- b) Contacting local publishers as well as international publishers, book vendors for purchasing new books.
- c) A good number of books have already been purchased from Law publishers, India on rural development, poverty alleviation, microfinance etc.

### New Database

Library has created a new database for annual report of different organisations namely 'Report.mst'.

### Library Software

An initiative has been taken to convert the existing library software to KOHA (Integrated Library Management Software). It is under process.

### Social Science Library

Social Science Library (SSL): Frontier Thinking in Sustainable Development and Human Well-being has been installed in the library. The SSL is a major electronic collection of writings relating to sustainable development and human well-being. The disciplines represented are: Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Social Psychology and Sociology.

### Access to Online Journals

CIRDAP library has registered with Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) programme. Through this programme now all of CIRDAP staff-members can access to nearly 10,000 journals, books, and reference works for 107 developing countries through ARDI.

### CMC's Directory

CIRDAP library has prepared the CMC's directory. The directory will be updated on regular basis.



## Library Webpage

Library webpage has been added to CIRDAP website for dissemination of information. Library webpage contains some basic information about CIRDAP library like about the library, library objectives, library services, library committee, membership facilities, library hours, useful links of free e-journals, e-books, digital repository etc. The webpage has been updated at regular interval.

Free e-resources list on Books, Journals, Rural development and Poverty Alleviation is being uploaded in library page as well as CIRDAP website. More than 500 e-books have been added to CIRDAP library. CIRDAP staff-members can access to those e-books through local network.

## Depository Library

CIRDAP library acts as depository library of ADB and World Bank. Therefore library received the publications of ADB and World Bank at regular basis.

## Public Relations

Public relations activities were strengthened in 2012. Widespread coverage was given by the print, electronic, and online media for the 33rd Foundation day programme (A. P. J. Kalam's lecture and his visit). Special interview programmes for Dr. Kalam and also outgoing Director General Dr. Durga P. Paudyal were also aired in some TV media. Mr. Nadim Quadir, an esteemed journalist was hired as the part-time media consultant for CIRDAP.

### New Release

#### Microfinance in Select Countries of Asia-Pacific Region

May 2012  
© CIRDAP  
ISBN: 984-8104-72-5  
Price: US\$ 15 for CMCs  
US\$ 20 for Others

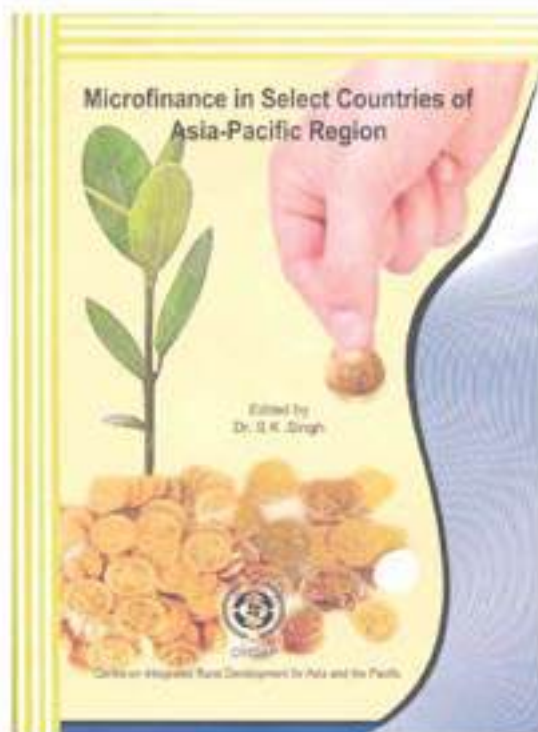
countries; and the last section presents the observations of attending participants of various training courses. The book is expected to be able to cover the scope of timely and path-breaking innovations of microfinance practices in the Asia-Pacific countries.

The microfinance institutions (MFIs) have grown fast in the Asia-Pacific region and emerged as an important tool for economic development and poverty alleviation, and particularly this tool provided access to institutional credit for the rural poor and disadvantaged groups without collateral.

Bangladesh has been pioneer in microfinance and flourished since 1970 and emerged as the heartland of microfinance in Asia. CIRDAP has been organising international training programmes for senior officials engaged in this field in their respective countries and conducting exposure visits of such officers to gain insights and to have hands-on experience in Bangladesh.

This book is expected to be utilised as a part of study material for future training courses on microfinance.

The volume has been carefully divided into four sections. The first section deals with conceptual framework of microfinance; the second section is exclusively devoted to experiences and institutional arrangement of microfinance in Bangladesh; the third section provides information about system of microfinance in select countries which was presented by the participants coming from ten member



## *Administration and Finance*

- Administration
- Organisational Structure
- Finance





The main activities of the Administration and Finance Division are to provide appropriate administrative support services to the Office of Director General in accomplishing his task and to provide the required facilities to all Programme Divisions to achieve the Center's objectives in the most efficient and economic manner. 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, arranging recruitment of general and professional staff as per operational manual, developing/managing/utilising personnel, extension of 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 CIRDAP auditorium/cafeteria, liaison with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, LGRD & Cooperatives, Housing & Public Works and concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities, maintenance of the garden in a befitting manner, 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), designs for improving financial systems and procedures to provide management information etc.

## Administration

### New DG of CIRDAP

Dr. Cecep Effendi has joined CIRDAP as Director General-Designate in June 2012. He replaced the outgoing DG Dr. Durga P. Paudyal from July 2012.



Director General of CIRDAP Dr. Cecep Effendi (R) shaking hands with outgoing DG Dr. Durga P. Paudyal

According to the decision of 18<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting, the new DG will join the office one month before the expiry of the tenure of the outgoing DG, in order to get familiarised with the functioning of the institute.

An Indonesian, Dr. Cecep Effendi has fifteen years experiences both as activist and as academician in the area of decentralisation and democratisation.

Dr. Effendi has participated in various capacities to advise national and local government agencies both as professional as well as advisor to the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Assembly, Indonesia's Senate, the Association of Provincial Governments, and Minister for Home Affairs of Republic of Indonesia in formulating policies, drafting government laws and regulations.

As an academician, he also served Islamic University, Indonesia as President, Dean for the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, and Head for the Department of Political Science, for a decade, from 1995 to 2003.

## 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 made 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 (CICC) by Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives. During 2007-08 & 2008-09 financial year, Government of Bangladesh (Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives) allocated and released an amount of Tk. 999.45 lac (US\$1.4 million). Later, due to increase of floor area, some changes in architectural design, inclusion of few new items in the estimate and to have machineries, fittings, furniture and other materials of international standard, PWD submitted a revised estimate for allocation of an additional amount, and Ministry of Finance approved an amount of Tk. 452.00 lac for construction of ICC in 2008-2009 financial year.

As per decision of GC-17 (January 2010) and as per request of DG, CIRDAP, the Government of India has shown interest to establish a ICT center in CIRDAP ICC building and released an amount of Rs.86,00,000 lac (US\$188,100) in favour of National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) for establishing ICT Centre. Government of Malaysia has sent five boxes of decoration goods of 21 items for CIRDAP International Conference Centre. The total value of the decoration goods is about Tk.46.69 lac (RM 200,340.00).



CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) has been formally handed over to CIRDAP Management by PWD under Ministry of Public Works, Government of Bangladesh, on 4 November 2012

Meanwhile, just to make the ICC functional, PWD submitted one proposal amounting to Tk.158.35 lac to the Secretary, RDCD for administrative approval and to allocate the fund for completion of construction of CIRDAP ICC. But Auditorium Table, Carpet, Neon Sign (Metal Signboard) and Fountain which are essential for ICC were not included in the proposal of PWD. However, it was decided to solve the matter as far as possible by inter-head adjustment of the estimate.



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 presided over by Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, was held on 6 March 2011 and 2 August 2011 at RDGD and CIRDAP HQs to discuss completion of CIRDAP ICC. 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 amounting to Tk. 158.35 lac from Finance Division by RDGD.

The CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) has been completed and PWD handed over CICC to CIRDAP authority on 4 November 2012. Mr. Abdul Haque, Executive Engineer (Civil), City Division and Mr. Abdur Razzak Khan, Executive Engineer (Electrical & Mechanical), City Division, were present in the handing-over ceremony. Administration and Finance Division provided necessary support services in the ceremony.

### **Personnel Advisory Committee**

The Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) of CIRDAP advises the Director General regarding all appointment, promotion, renewal of tenure, confirmation of appointment, separation/termination etc. of the staff-members and other HR-related matters. During 2012, 12 PAC meetings were convened for confirmation and renewal services of CIRDAP staff-members.

### **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 suggestion/recommendation/comment in order to take decision by the Management. A total of 51 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2012.

Arrangement for purchasing of different office stationeries, toners, toiletries, cleaning materials, office furniture, air-conditioner, equipment and cookeries for CIRDAP International Conference Centre was made. CIRDAP purchased one attendance Punch Machine during this period. Repairing of photocopy machine, lawn mower machine and servicing of the air-conditioners were also made.

### **Transportation**

CIRDAP imported one new Toyota Hiace 12-seated microbus from Toyota Co. Japan through M/s. Navana Ltd., Dhaka and disposed two old vehicles – one Hiace Microbus and one Minibus. CIRDAP arranged necessary repairing, maintenance, denting, painting and regular servicing work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP from Navana Toyota Service Centre, which is the only service centre of Toyota Co. Japan in Bangladesh. Arrangements for getting insurance and fitness certificate of all the vehicles of CIRDAP were also made.

### **Protocol Support**

Administration provided required protocol support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA for the travellers, attended airport to receive and see off the travellers, arranged accommodation, lunch, dinner, transport etc. contacting embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for the visas of the travellers to organise all the CIRDAP programmes during 2011. Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staff-members of CIRDAP in getting renewal of their passport/visa, accommodation along with required maintenance, renewal of agreements with the land lord etc.

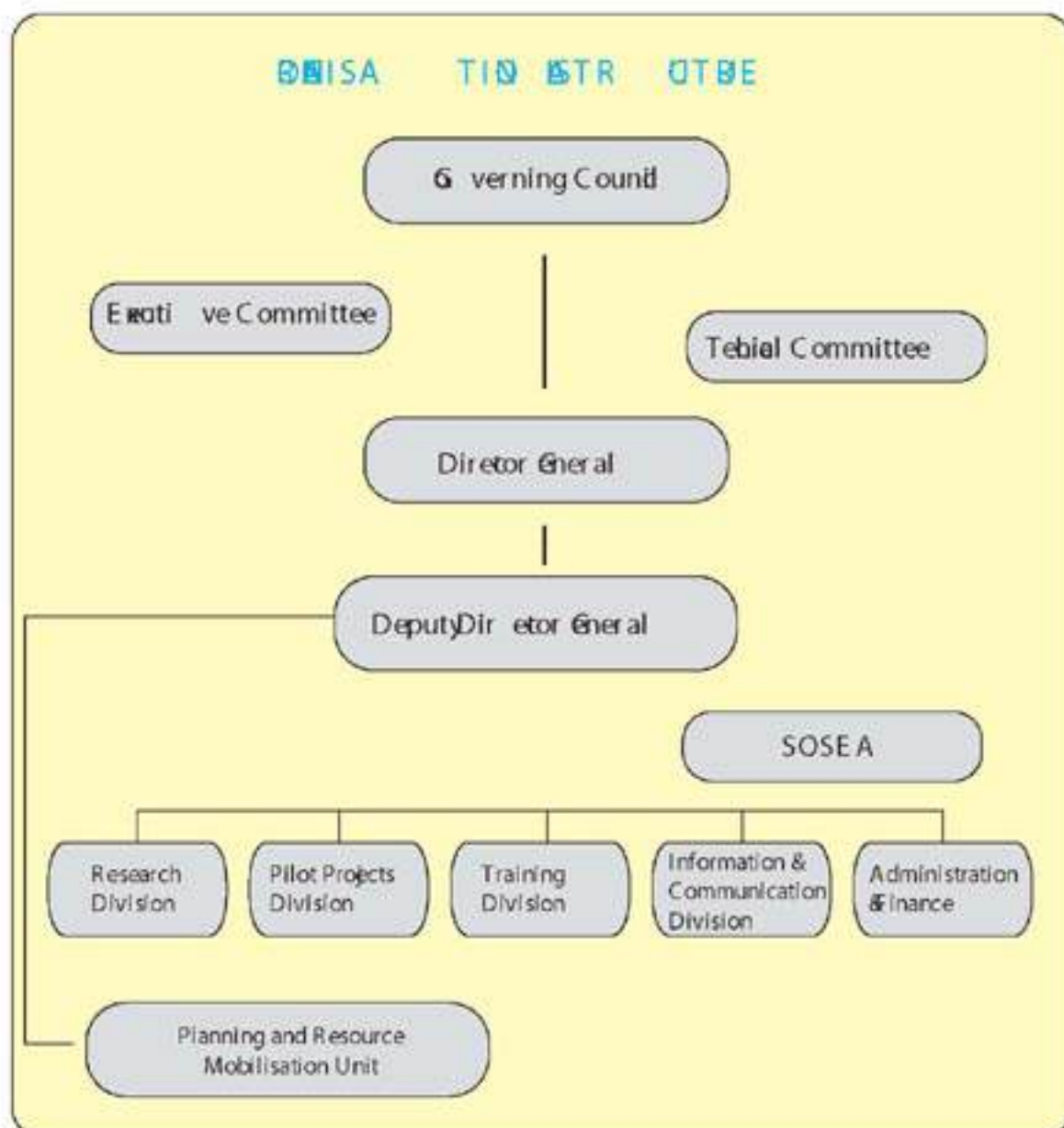
### **CIRDAP Auditorium**

Necessary painting and repairing works have been done in the CIRDAP Auditorium by Public Works Department (PWD) during 2012. In order to improve facilities during meetings, one 4 tons air-conditioner has been purchased and installed in the auditorium. A number of chairs were repaired and table cloths were replaced by new ones.

Arrangements were made to increase the rent of CIRDAP auditorium by about 60 per cent with effect from February 2011. Necessary arrangements were also made to keep the auditorium in a good condition around the year.

### Renovation/Maintenance Work

Due to 33<sup>rd</sup> CIRDAP Founding Anniversary Programme held on 5 July 2012, painting works of inside and outside of the CIRDAP main building, front side of CIRDAP annex building (auditorium building), inside of the CIRDAP Auditorium including necessary repairing works, cafeteria and mosque were done by the Public Works Department (PWD) before the meeting. Necessary measures were also taken for beautification the of garden.





## 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 16<sup>th</sup> biennium (2010-2011) were US\$1,910,905.72 and US\$1,261,358.51 respectively. Income and Expenditure of Trust Fund for the sixteen biennium (2010-2011) were US\$474,443.58 and US\$297,105.10 respectively.

### Audit of the Accounts

The Final accounts of the centre for the 16<sup>th</sup> biennium (2010-2011) year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 was audited by Mr. Shiva Prasad Neupane, Assistant Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General, Nepal, from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Report and the financial statements for the 16<sup>th</sup> biennium (2010-2011) have been furnished below:

#### **AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP FOR THE 16<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIUM (2010-2011) ENDED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2011**

I have examined the financial statements of CIRDAP (Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific for the 16<sup>th</sup> biennium (2010-2011) ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 and related statements. I have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required.

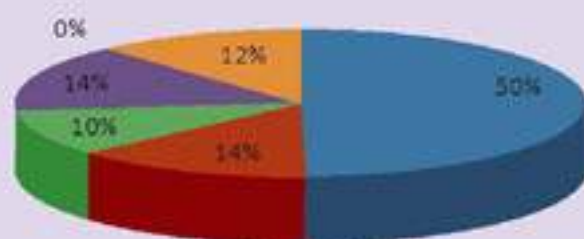
I conducted my audit on generally accepted auditing standards and CIRDAP's financial regulation. The audit is designed to provide reasonable assurance that CIRDAP's financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatements. The audit includes examining the records, on a test basis and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

SHIVA PRASAD NEUPANE  
Assistant Auditor General  
Office of the Auditor General  
Nepal  
Dhaka, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012

### CIRDAP Fund Status As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

Sl #	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	649,547
2	Trust Fund	177,338
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	188,283
5	Special Reserve Fund	3,426
6	Reg. Co-op Fund (RCF)	156,576
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1305,488</b>



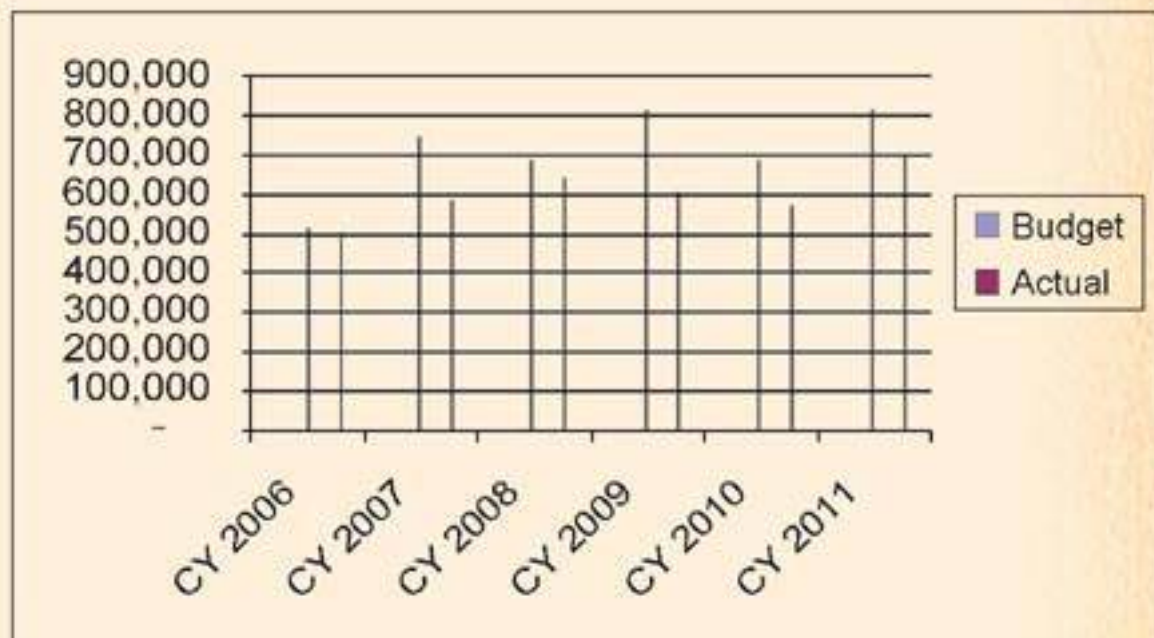
- 1 General Fund
- 2 Trust Fund
- 3 Working Capital Fund
- 4 Depreciation Reserve Fund
- 5 Special Reserve Fund
- 6 Reg. Co-op Fund (RCF)



## CIRDAP General Fund

Amount in US\$

	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011
Budget	513,323	742,692	685,425	810,568	685,425	810,568
Actual	498,763	583,873	640,328	608,325	570,392	690,967



# CIRDAP

## Consolidated Assets and Liabilities ( S/AL )

Final Accounts as on 31 December 2011

Account Code	Assets	2010-2011 16th Biennium Amount in US\$	Notes	2008-2009 15th Biennium Amount in US\$
40100	Cash in Hand	8,085.43		5177.05
40200	Cash in Banks	266,024.76	1	179360.76
40300	Investment in Banks	668,542.95	1.A	668521.56
40000	<b>Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks</b>	<b>982,653.16</b>		<b>883,059.37</b>
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	296,802.70	2	150303.29
40402	Advance to Staff	7,813.65	4	15399.06
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	3,623.30	5	6314.24
40404	Other Accounts Receivables	-		239.94
40000	<b>Subtotal of Receivables</b>	<b>308,239.65</b>		<b>172,256.53</b>
80000	Fixed Assets	20,000.85	3	18844.57
80005	Asset - auditorium/conference room	8,878.20	3	19791.93
80006	asset purchased from project account	9,628.13	3	15811.69
80007	asset purchased from DRF	60,834.08	3	2078.07
80000	<b>Subtotal of Fixed Assets</b>	<b>99,341.26</b>		<b>56,326.26</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,370,234.07</b>		<b>1,111,642.16</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>				
10101	Advance Contribution Received	51,460.00		-
10102	Other Accounts Payable	13,266.13	6	12340.37
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	-		-
	<b>Sub Total of Total Liabilities</b>	<b>64,746.13</b>		<b>12,340.37</b>
	<b>Net Assets</b>			
20100	General Fund ( GF )	649,547.21		482,103.07
80000	Fixed Assets	-		0
	<b>Subtotal of General Fund</b>	<b>649,547.21</b>		<b>482,103.07</b>
20200	Trust Fund ( TF )	177,338.48		173,257.35
20300	Working Capital Fund ( WCF )	130,317.00		130,317.00
20400	Depreciation Reserve Fund ( DRF )	188,263.21		220,030.47
20500	Special Reserve Fund ( SRF )	3,425.63		3,842.20
20600	Reg. Co-ope Fund (RCF)	156,576.41		59,751.70
	<b>Subtotal of Other Funds</b>	<b>655,940.73</b>		<b>617,198.72</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>1,370,234.07</b>		<b>1,111,642.16</b>

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



**CIRDAP**  
**General Fund ( GF )**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**For the year ended on 31 December 2011**

Account Code	Income	2010-2011 16th Biennium Amount in US\$	2008-2009 15th Biennium Amount in US\$
20100	Openin Balance of Fund	482,103.07	411,159.58
	Add : Assets retained from DRF	89,603.67	
		572,038.74	411,159.58
20400	Temporary Loan from DRF		
	Less : Refund		
70101	CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	1,232,840.58	1,233,594.60
70200	Miscellaneous Income	106,026.40	86,002.52
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,910,905.72</b>	<b>1,730,756.68</b>
Code	Expenditure		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	281379.47	295,911.84
80102	General Staff Salary	312482.32	308,901.43
80104	General Staff Overtime	4,707.09	5,004.05
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>598,568.88</b>	<b>609,817.32</b>
80200	Common Staff Cost	144,686.24	148,366.51
80300	Official Travels	143,901.54	163,537.79
80400	External Audit	6,700.00	6,836.21
80600	General Operating Expenses	350,096.92	297,691.07
80700	Supplies and Materials	17,404.93	22,404.71
80800	Acquisition of Assets		
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,261,358.51</b>	<b>1,248,653.61</b>
	Statement of of Assets and Liabilities ( S/L)	649,547.21	482,103.07

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

Finance Officer  
Dhaka, December 31, 2011

Head of Admin. and Finance  
Dhaka, December 31, 2011

Director General  
Dhaka, December 31, 2011

**CIRDAP**  
**Trust Fund ( TF )**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**For the year ended on 31 December 2011**

Account Code	Income	2010-2011 16th Biennium Amount in US\$	2008-2009 15th Biennium Amount in US\$
20200	Opening Balance of Fund	173,257.35	454,037.42
20200	Allocation From Special Reserve Fund During the Year 2010 & 2011	25,871.94	25,634.88
70303	Contribution Received From others	17,070.53	21,505.77
10102	Donor Agency Contribution Refund	-	335.47
70303	CommonWealth Sec. UK	-	39,959.27
70303	Contributions of JAPAN through LGRD	185,600.00	133,952.00
70303	Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	72,843.76	177,147.98
		<b>275,314.29</b>	<b>372,229.55</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>474,443.58</b>	<b>851,901.85</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
90100	Research Projects	204,677.68	272,212.12
90200	Pilot Projects	1,634.68	760.20
90300	Training Projects	64,920.80	388,339.09
90400	Doc. & Information Projects	25,871.94	17,333.09
	Adjustment : Total assets purchased		
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>297,105.10</b>	<b>678,644.50</b>
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities ( S/L )	<b>177,338.48</b>	<b>173,257.35</b>

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

Finance Officer  
Dhaka, December 31, 2011

Head of Admin. and Finance  
Dhaka, December 31, 2011

Director General  
Dhaka, December 31, 2011



## *Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia*



### **Activities of SOCSEA**

#### **Utilisation of Cassava Waste to Produce Biogas for Energy Establishing Self-supporting Village**

The Training on the Utilisation of Cassava Waste to Produce Biogas for Establishing Energy Self-Supporting Village was held on 7-8 March 2011 in Purbalingga, Central Java, Indonesia. The training was jointly organised by SOCSEA and the Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency c.q. Agency for Community Empowerment (BAPPERMAS) of Purbalingga. The training was attended by 76 participants representing Regional Office of Purbalingga and local community organisations. Vice Regent of Purbalingga representing Regent of Purbalingga delivered the Inaugural Address. The technical session was conducted by Resource Persons/facilitators from Regional Office of Environment, Purbalingga Regency; Student Young Care Environment (PEPELING); Regional Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives (ITCS), Purbalingga Regency; and Women Welfare Association (PKK), Purbalingga Regency.

The objectives of the training were to:

- a) Enhance value added for increasing community income;
- b) Enhance the human resource development; and
- c) Create job opportunities and employment.

#### **Meeting between SOCSEA and Government of Indonesia**

At present the source of fund for operation of SOCSEA is from the 30 per cent increase of Indonesian contribution to CIRDAP to the tune of US\$16,333. But this amount of money is not sufficient to support the operation of SOCSEA. In the effort to increase the support of Indonesia to SOCSEA, it has sent a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) being the CIRDAP Contact Ministry in Indonesia with c.c to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) requesting the enhancement of contribution of Indonesia to CIRDAP/SOCSEA. Accordingly as a response of the government to the letter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organised a meeting on 18 April 2011 in Jakarta. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance Affairs, State Secretariat and SOCSEA. Upon the request of SOCSEA, the Government of Indonesia is considering to enhance the support to SOCSEA.

#### **Meeting between SOCSEA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia**

Preliminary discussions are being held for possible undertaking of joint programme to be organised by SOCSEA, UNDP and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia under its programme of Technical Cooperation Among Development Countries (TCDC). SOCSEA prepared project proposal '*Regional Training Programme on Entrepreneurship and Micro-enterprise Building in Rural/Semi-Urban Areas*'.

Simultaneously SOCSEA has submitted the proposal to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Perez Guerero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group 77 for possible funding assistance.

Regarding Indonesian contribution to Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) of CIRDAP, a meeting between SOCSEA and Government of Republic Indonesia was held on 16 April 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance Affairs, State Secretariat and SOCSEA. During the meeting, SOCSEA made a presentation on the aims and programmes of the RCF. The government, in principle, supports the RCF, and a working group was established by the government (inter-ministry).

### **SOCSEA-ICCO Collaboration**

Inter-church Organisation for Development Collaboration (ICCO) is a Netherland based non-government organisation (NGO), and its Regional Office, Southeast Asia and Pacific is in Bali, Indonesia. During a meeting in SOCSEA office, Jakarta at the beginning of February 2011, the ICCO Regional Office has made a gesture for possible cooperation between SOCSEA and ICCO in organising training/workshop for government officials from CIRDAP to member countries with the objective of CIRDAP to focus its activities on its priority area concern. As the follow-up of the meeting, SOCSEA has prepared and sent the following two proposals to ICCO on May 2011:

- i. International Training Programme on Sustainable Village Development and Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation; and
- ii. Training Workshop on Renewable Source of Energy: Micro Hydro Power for Village Development.

On 13 April 2012 SOCSEA and ICCO met in SOCSEA office in Jakarta to discuss and negotiate the possibility of ICCO to provide budget for implementation of the International Training Programme on 'Sustainable Village Development and Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation'. During the meeting, ICCO Regional Office has agreed to provide a total fund of 23,000 EUR from the proposed total budget of US\$51,800 for implementing the training. ICCO requested CIRDAP/SOCSEA to provide the rest of fund US\$21,200 or to seek other donor agencies.

### **SOCSEA and NAM CSSTC**

The budget provided by ICCO for implementing of International Training Programme on 'Sustainable Village Development and Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation' is yet to meet the total expenditure. SOCSEA has sent the proposal to NAM CSSTC for getting budget support. On May 2012, NAM CSSTC invited SOCSEA to discuss the project proposal. During the meeting, NAM CSSTC requested SOCSEA to revise the proposal and NAM CSSTC has made a commitment to provide a part of the budget. On 28 June 2012, SOCSEA and NAM CSSTC met to discuss the revised project proposal with the title of International Training Workshop on Small and Micro-Enterprise Development in Rural Areas. SOCSEA and NAM CSSTC have also agreed to conduct the training in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



## CIRDAP Staff Profile



**Dr. Cecep Effendi, Indonesia**

[Bachelor of Arts, Faculty of Arts, University of Indonesia, Jakarta;  
Master and Doctor of Philosophy, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal  
Nehru University, India]  
Director General

Dr. Cecep Effendi has fifteen years experiences both as activist and as academician in the area of decentralisation and democratisation. Since 1999, started as chairman of Rector Forum in the West Java Province, he was responsible in ensuring a free and fair election in the province by employing 1000 university students to work as observers in Indonesia's first democratic election after the collapse of the New Order regime. Since then, Dr. Effendi has participated in various capacities to advise national and local government agencies both as professional as well as advisor to the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Assembly, Indonesia's Senate, the Association of Provincial Governments, and Minister for Home Affairs of Republic of Indonesia in formulating policies, drafting government laws and regulations.

Dr. Cecep Effendi served as partner of the Asia Foundation in initiating a new reform for local government, Programme Manager of Decentralisation of UNDP, Senior Advisor and Deputy Team Leader German Technical Cooperation's Advisory Service Support for Decentralisation in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia. He also served as Deputy Principal Advisor of German International Cooperation for Decentralisation as Contribution to Good Governance in the Ministry of Home Affairs. He was member of the Advisory Team to the Minister of Home Affairs and Association of Provincial Government. He was recipient of American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellow at the Committee of International Relations, House of Representatives in Washington DC, United States of America; Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP), House of Representatives, Ottawa, Canada; Charity Commission for English and Wales in London, the United Kingdom; and German International Cooperation Training Programme in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany. As academician he served as Vice Chancellor of an Islamic university, Dean and Head of Department of Social and Political Sciences for a decade. He served as Secretary General of Indonesian Islamic Universities/Colleges Association for four years. Dr. Cecep Effendi has assumed the position of Director General of CIRDAP since 6 July 2012.



**Dr. S. K. Singh, India**

[Ph.D. in Political Science, India]  
Director, Training Division

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

Government Systems, Service Delivery, Local Finance, Disaster Management, Family Welfare, Capacity Building, etc.

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



**Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Iran**

[Master's in Natural Resources, Tehran University]  
Director, Pilot Projects Division

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 farmlands by training on using 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 (RD), 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 plans/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 and establish SSI in rural areas.

He is an expert on rural development qualified by international/national institutes and organisations such as Gulef University of Canada, Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), and NIRD. He is an UNIDO qualified auditor of Industrial Clusters development projects running by Cluster Development Agent (CDA).

He has participated in several international/national conferences and workshops and presented his papers on RD and SSIs. He is a member of Supreme Council of Iranian Official Experts (SCIOA). Mr. Shahbaz joined CIRDAP in March 2009.





**Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, India**

[Master in Economics, University of Madras, India;  
Ph.D in Economics, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India;  
Post-Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Communication, BVB, India]  
Director, Information & Communication Division

An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) expert, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran has contributed to strengthening youth and rural development documentation in India. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she worked at Centre for Media and Rural Documentation, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India. She also worked as Faculty Head, Research, Evaluation, Documentation and Dissemination Division with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Tamil Nadu, India. Her areas of interest are Rural Wage Employment, Development Communication, Women in Governance and Youth Development.

Dr. Vasanthi has edited over 300 books on rural and youth development and published several articles in reputed journals. During her stay for two and a half decades at NIRD and RGNIYD India, she has conducted over 100 training programmes for national and international participants on various facets of Rural Communication and Youth Development. She participates regularly as a resource person in South Asian Regional Conferences on 'Promoting Gender Responsive Politics', organised by South Asia Partnership International (SAPI).

Dr. Vasanthi initiated and coordinated the first ever Youth Development Index Project for India and the Indian Youth in New Millennium Study. She also developed India's exclusive Youth Portal and started the first ever Journal of Youth Development 'Endeavour'. She has designed several Capacity Building Modules for Youth viz, on Right to Information, Environment, Poverty Alleviation, Career Counselling etc. and conducted several research studies on youth issues besides compiling a Statistical Profile of Youth in India. Dr. Vasanthi joined CIRDAP in March 2011.



**Dr. Majibar Rahman, Bangladesh**

[Master in Rural Social Development, University of Reading, UK;  
M.Com. (Mgt.) First Class First ( Dhaka University) Ph.D,  
Preston University, USA]  
Special Officer, PRMU

A government servant for more than 15 years, Dr. Majibar Rahman has served in senior positions as a counterpart to expatriate/international advisors in several donor-assisted projects devoted to rural development, poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement of the poor in Bangladesh. His areas of expertise/specialisations include: Local governance, microfinance, promotion of income-generating activities, micro-enterprise development, flood proofing, participatory rural development and poverty alleviation, participatory planning, gender development, project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. More specifically he worked for eight years in RD-5 project as Deputy Project Director supported by SIDA and for two years in RD-9 project as Sr. Economic Development Manager assisted by EU. Dr. Rahman also acted as the Project Director in Participatory Rural Development Project (PRDP) popularly known as the Link Model supported by JICA for four years. Before joining CIRDAP, he worked in the capacity of Project Director in Char Livelihood Programme (CLP) implemented by RDCD with financial and technical support from DFID. Dr. Rahman got National Award for his outstanding performance and contribution to the field of Cooperatives and Rural Development in 1986. He received training in UK, Greece, India and Japan in the field of Rural and Social Development; Cooperatives; Microfinance; Human Security; Participatory Rural Development and Local Government in Japan; and Rural Regional Development Planning. Dr. Rahman joined CIRDAP in June 2006.



**Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Bangladesh**  
[Master's in Statistics, Dhaka University]  
Assistant Programme Officer

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

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he served as Training Officer for two years and later Research and Evaluation Officer for three years in World Vision of Bangladesh (an international NGO). Worked as an Intern Consultant in two non-profit organisations, viz. Olde Kensington Redevelopment Corporation and St. Simeon's Community Centre, Philadelphia, USA, and assisted in developing their strategic plan, funding strategy, organisational development etc. His areas of expertise include project feasibility, baseline survey, management, participatory monitoring and evaluation. Experienced as facilitator in Participatory Project Cycle Management and PRA exercises both at home and abroad. He also participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. He has also coauthored a number of articles on various socioeconomic projects and a book on case study on food security programme in Bangladesh. Mr. David joined CIRDAP in March 1998.



**Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh**  
[MBA (Finance)-East West University, M.Com (Acct.), CA (cc)]  
Finance Officer

Previously he worked in a multinational organisation, Asian Consumer Care (Pvt) Ltd. (a joint venture of Dabur International & ACI Ltd), and he also worked with PRAN-RFL group as a Assistant Manager (Accounts & Fund Management). He has 12-year job experience in Accounts and Finance. He has intensive experience in budgeting, financial planning and reporting, ratio analysis, fund management and company Law. Mr. Shahadat Joined CIRDAP in April 2008.





**Engr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Bangladesh**  
[MBA (MIS), Prime University;  
M. Sc in Computer Science & Engg. (DIU);  
B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engg. (DUET)]  
Computer Programmer

He 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 softwares along with essential utility softwares. He has worked in a number of national institutions/organisations. Before joining CIRDAP, he has worked in SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh 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 to prepare Specifications, Tender Documents and Procurement as per Public Procurement Regulation 2003 (PPR 03). He has participated in several seminars, workshops and training programmes at national and international level. 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**  
[B.S.S (Hons), M.S.S in Economics, Dhaka University]  
Assistant Information and Communication Officer

She has experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation, information management, designing communication strategies, media relations and publishing & printing. Ms. Zeenat is also trained in economic modelling, growth and poverty issues. She was a 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 Communication 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, Moscow]  
Librarian

Dr. Usharani Boruah served as a Librarian in various organisations for more than thirteen years. She worked as a Librarian in the Indian Embassy, Moscow and Indian International School, Moscow, Russia. She worked as Librarian of the University of Development Alternative (UODA ) Dhaka, Bangladesh and also as Medical Librarian in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. Dr. Usharani has vast experience in Library Development Education Programmes, Community Development Education Programme, Ethnic Development Educations Programme through Library Education and Policy. Dr. Usharani 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 communications and journalism, Mr. Saifuddin developed his expertise on information, education and communication (IEC), writing and 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 journalist, 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 2012:**

- Dr. Anwara Begum, Director, Research
- Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Head of Admin. & Finance
- Mr. A. F. M. Azim Uddin, Research Assistant



## Other Staff-members

Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Ahmed	: Finance Assistant
Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	: Senior Secretary (Training)
Mr. Md. Shahjahan Patwary	: Secretary (Pilot Projects)
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	: Secretary (Research)
Mr. Shidhartha Sen Gupta	: Property & Supply Assistant
Mr. Md. Shahjada Masud Anowarul Haque	: Library Assistant
Mr. Md. Akram Ullah	: Cashier
Mr. A.B.M Rezaul Hasan	: Secretary (Admin & Finance)
Mr. Deba Datta Chakma	: Secretary to DG
Ms. Laila Nasrin	: Secretary (ICD)
Ms. Najma Yeasmin	: Personnel Assistant
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	: Computer Operator
Mr. Hari Pada Bhowmik	: Clerk-Typist
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal	: Typist
Mr. Shankar Ch. Das	: Technical Operator
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	: Machine Operator
Mr. Mofizul Islam Sarker	: Driver
Mr. Md. Manzoor	: Driver
Mr. Shimul Barua	: Driver
Mr. Kallol Barua	: Driver
Mr. Biplob Kumar Dhar	: Driver
Mr. Bishu Chandra Das	: Janitor
Ms. Rezia Begum	: Messenger
Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed	: Messenger
Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam	: Bearer-Cook
Mr. Md. Ramjan Ali	: Watchman
Mr. Md. Dianat Khan	: Watchman
Mr. Narayan Chandra Mondal	: Janitor
Mr. Sujit Chandra Das	: Janitor
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	: Janitor
Mr. Martin Does	: Watchman
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Mollah	: Gardener

## Temporary Staff-members

Mr. Md. Khairul Hasan	: Supervisor (Auditorium)
Mr. Md. Monir Hossain	: Temporary Electrician
Mr. Md. Jamal	: Temporary Driver
Mr. Roman Khan	: Temporary Cook
Ms. Parveen Begum	: Temporary Cook

## Abbreviations & Acronyms

AHNCRD&MA	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration	IUs	Implementing Units
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	LG	Local Government
AKRSP	Agha Khan Rural Support Programme	MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
ALTA	Agriculture Land Lord and Tenant Act	MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
ALTO	Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Ordinance	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
APERDRI	Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute	MoYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	MSI	Management System International
BADC	Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation	NATP	National Agricultural Technology Project
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	NGO	Non-Government Organisations
BIHCP	Basic Integrated Health Care Programme	NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture	NLTA	Native Land Trust Act
CBPO	Capacity Building of People's Organisation	NLTB	Native Land Trust Board
CDCs	Community Development Councils	NLTO	Native Land Trust Ordinance
CICC	CIRDAP International Conference Centre	NSP	National Solidarity Programme
CLIs	CIRDAP Link institutions	OTOP	One Tambon One Product
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Courtiers	PA	Poverty Alleviation
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	PPD	Pilot Projects Division
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension	PPP	Public, Private Partnership
DFP	Directorate of Field Publicity	PRIs	Panchayet Raj Institutions
DSCG	Dept. of Sanadhi Commissioner General	RCCRC	Rice and Cash Crop, Research Centre
EC	Executive Committee Meeting	RCF	Regional Cooperation Fund
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	RD	Rural Development
FFS	Farmer's Field School	RDA	Rural Development Academy
FPSP	For Profit Private Service Providers	RGNIYD	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
GC	Governing Council Meeting	RRDP	Regional and Rural Development Planning
GDP	Gross Domestic Production	RSC	Rural School Children
GHGs	Green House Gases	SAIC	SAARC Information Centre
HLP	Horizontal Learning Programme	SAP	Social Action Programme
ICD	Information and Communication Division	SDP	Skill Development Programme
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	SERD	Society for Education and Research Development
IEC	Information Education and Communication	SOCSEA	Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
ISG	International Jute Study Group	TAG	Technical Advisory Group
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	TD	Training Division
IRD	Integrated Rural Development	UCV	Unimproved Capital Value
		UP	Union Parishad
		USM	Universiti Sains Malaysia
		VOs	Village Organisations
		WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development





# REGIONAL IRD NETWORK

## Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Dev. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Dev. Darul Aman Road, Kabul	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Darul Aman Road, Kabul
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development Kotbari, Comilla	Rural Development & Cooperatives Division Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Development & Cooperatives, Dhaka
Fiji	Provincial Development, Ministry of Provincial Development and National Disaster Management Knolly Street, Suva	Provincial Development, Ministry of Provincial Development and National Disaster Management Knolly Street, Suva
India	National Institute of Rural Development Rajendranagar Hyderabad	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi
Indonesia	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment Ministry of Home Affairs, Jakarta	Ministry of Home Affairs Medan Merdeka Utara 7 Jakarta
Iran Development T	Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Research Institute Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture ehran	Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Jihad-e-Agriculture Building Tehran
Lao PDR	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Vientiane	Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane
Malaysia	Institute of Rural Advancement Ministry of Rural & Regional Development Putrajaya Kajang, Selangor Darul Eshan	Ministry of Rural & Regional Development
Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture Nay Pyi Taw	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw
Nepal	Local Development Training Academy Jawalakhel, Lalitpur	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development Pulchowk, Lalitpur
Pakistan	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration Chak Shahzad, Islamabad	Ministry of Education and Training Pak Secretariat Islamabad
Philippines	Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Department Department of Agrarian Reform Diliman, Quezon City	Department of Agrarian Reform Diliman, Quezon City
Sri Lanka	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo	Ministry of Agriculture Rajamalwatta Avenue, Battaramulla
Thailand	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Baan Panthom Pranakhon, Bangkok
Vietnam	International Cooperation Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Ba Dinh, Hanoi