

CIRDAP

Annual Report

2013



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

Contents

2013 in Review: Director General's Report	3
Policy Body Meetings	13
Research	40
Pilot Projects	51
Training	61
Information and Communication	78
Administration and Finance	91
Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia	102
CIRDAP Staff Profile	104
Abbreviations & Acronyms	110



CIRDAP Annual Report 2013, Number 33

Published by CIRDAP
© CIRDAP 2014

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road
GPO Box 2883

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Tel.: 880-2-9558751, 9559686, 9586509-10

Fax: 880-2-9562035, 9571880

E-mail: icd@cirdap.org

Website: www.cirdap.org

Design & Printing: Dot Ad



2013 *in Review* *Director General's Report*



During my first year as Director General of CIRDAP, some achievements were made in promoting regional cooperation and exchange of experiences among CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) on rural development and poverty alleviation.

Since July 2012, CIRDAP has taken a new initiative to engage itself with international organisations, especially those organisations that operate in Bangladesh and beyond. The objective is that by reengaging itself again with international organisations existing in Bangladesh, CIRDAP can expand its engagement with international organisations at the regional and global level. CIRDAP, at the same time, has continued to develop its relationship with regional organisations operating in the Asia and Pacific region as well as with well-known organisations existing in CMCs as part of the attempt to strengthen South-South Technical Cooperation.

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 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 approaches and appropriate modes of interventions for rural development, giving special attention on people's participation for their own socioeconomic wellbeing. 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.



GC 19 in progress

Last year, CIRDAP became member of the Horizontal Learning Programme Consortium in Bangladesh. The consortium consists of a number of international donor organisations operating in Bangladesh, such as Water and Sanitation Programme, World Bank Bangladesh, JICA, DFID, GIZ, SDC, USAID, Plan Bangladesh, Water Aid and some Non-Governmental Organisations. The Horizontal Learning Programme Consortium has provided CIRDAP a platform to build close cooperation with Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank Bangladesh. In cooperation with CIRDAP's Link Institute in Pakistan, Akhtar Ahmed National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD-MA), CIRDAP organised Horizontal Learning Workshop in Islamabad in February 2013. The AHK NCRD-MA followed up the workshop by organising similar workshop in Balochistan and Kyber Pakhtunkwa. In cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, CIRDAP organised 4 (four) days Horizontal Learning Workshop at the College of Agriculture Management Training in Hanoi. The workshop engaged 30 participants from various agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The workshop, like any other workshop, also produced some cases of best practices related to rural development. A similar workshop was organised in Suva, Republic of Fiji in November 2013.



EC 29 in progress

CIRDAP sought further cooperation with the World Bank Headquarter in Washington, D.C., the United States of America. CIRDAP discussed the possible collaboration between CIRDAP and the World Bank with Dr. Rajesh Bhuvan, Head of the Water and Sanitation Programme at the World Bank Head Office when he visited CIRDAP in June 2013. We took the initiative to write a letter to Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of the World Bank Head Office in Washington, D.C. Communication between CIRDAP and the World Bank paved the way for Patrice Labaste, Practice

Leader, Rural, Environment and Social Sector Unit East Asia and the Pacific Region, the World Bank Head Office to offer World Bank's professional staffs to participate in CIRDAP events. The offer of support by the World Bank Head Office in Washington, D.C. will hopefully help CIRDAP to improve its services to its member countries by engaging professional experts in workshops or seminars on issues related to rural development in the Asia and Pacific region.

To further expand its network and collaboration, CIRDAP successfully organised the International Youth Conference on Youth in Development in partnership with Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Republic of India. The Conference was organised at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth in Chennai, India in connection with CIRDAP's Rural Development Report for 2013 entitled Youth in Development. With the sponsorship of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Republic of India, CIRDAP engaged representatives from 9 (nine) member countries to participate in the conference. The conference came out with important recommendations which highlight the need for CIRDAP Member Countries to have well-defined and implementable youth policies so that the youth can be fully engaged in the developmental process.

Collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth in Chennai, India was further strengthened when CIRDAP organised Horizontal Learning Workshop for youth leaders in Chennai, India in April 2013. The workshop helped Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth to

have a pool of trainers who would continue the process of promoting Horizontal Learning in their respective region. Through the use of Horizontal Learning Programme, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth gathered enough data concerning best practices that have been implemented by youth organisations in the southern part of India. The collection of best practices will eventually be shared by other youth organisations all over India through internet network. The collaboration between CIRDAP and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth finally led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CIRDAP and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth. The Memorandum of Understanding basically focuses on collaboration between the two organisations for organising conferences, trainings and faculty exchanges between Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth with CIRDAP's Country Link Institutes as well as collaboration in conducting research and publication related to youth issues.

To strengthen cooperation with member countries in Southeast Asia, CIRDAP in collaboration with Non-Aligned Movement South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-SSTC) in Jakarta, Indonesia and Southeast Asia Office of International Council of Churches Organisation (ICCO) based in Bali, Indonesia, organised an international workshop on Strengthening the Role of Micro and Small Medium Enterprises in Jogjakarta, Indonesia in April 2013. Seven CMCs from Southeast Asia participated in the four days' workshop. Speakers from the government agency in charge of small and medium enterprises, banking sector, chamber of commerce and non-governmental organisations were invited during the workshop. The Jogjakarta province has a reputation of having the biggest concentration of small and medium enterprises in Indonesia.

The collaboration with Non-Aligned Movement South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM SSTC) in organising international workshop on small and medium enterprises in Jogjakarta led to the renewal of MoU between CIRDAP and NAM SSTC. A joint conference between CIRDAP and NAM SSTC and other international organisations was organised in Indonesia on biogas in the month of November 2013.

CIRDAP took the initiative to strengthen relations with Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO). AARDO is based in New Delhi, India; it has a similar mandate as CIRDAP with more focus in Africa. AARDO has member countries who are also CIRDAP members. In terms of programme, AARDO and CIRDAP share many similar activities, like training and workshop. AARDO has regularly attended the CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting. Based on these factors, CIRDAP and AARDO signed a MoU on 20 August 2013 in New Delhi, India to jointly collaborate in organising workshops, trainings and conferences.

CIRDAP has taken steps to work closely with the International Tropical Fruit Network (TFNet) based in Selangor, Malaysia and was present at the Tropical Fruit Network Governing Council Meeting on 12 July 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The initial discussion was conducted during the visit of Director Executive of International Tropical Fruit Network to CIRDAP in November 2012. Discussion between CIRDAP and International Tropical Fruit Network led to the signing of a MoU between CIRDAP and Tropical Fruit Network in August 2013.

The Memorandum stipulated the agreement between CIRDAP and Tropical Fruit Network to work together in organising conferences and workshops in the areas of common interest between the two organisations. In Hanoi, CIRDAP, TFNet and Secretary General of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Malaysia agreed to organise an international workshop on the food processing industry attended by regional and international organisations dealing with rural and agricultural development in Kuala Lumpur prior to the Malaysian International Agriculture Fair in 2014.

CIRDAP considers it very important to develop close cooperation with Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) based at University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), the Philippines. CIRDAP can learn a lot from the success story of SEARCA in promoting regional cooperation in Southeast Asia through training, research and conferences on issues related to rural development and agriculture. SEARCA representatives participated in CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia in May 2013. SEARCA sent a list of its programmes for 2014 to offer CIRDAP the opportunity to have a partnership with SEARCA in 2014.

The current drive to engage international organisations in promoting rural development as CIRDAP's partner is aimed at strengthening ties with those organisations that have similar agenda with CIRDAP and engage them as partners not only with the hope that it will have a much wider impact, but will also economise CIRDAP programmes, and most importantly, CIRDAP can serve its members better by offering better quality programmes.

CIRDAP is fully aware that it urgently needs to strengthen its collaboration with national organisations dealing with rural development in CMCs. In this connection, CIRDAP has already signed a MoU with the Division of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Bangladesh Bank on 13 May 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The MoU in principle stated that CIRDAP and Bangladesh Bank will work together to support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises in Bangladesh.

CIRDAP will offer best practices of CMCs by organising study visits or expert exchanges for the benefit of the small and medium enterprises sector of Bangladesh. The MoU also stipulated that Bangladesh

Building Bridges



Dr. Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director, IDRC



Eng Wasfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General, AARDO



*Secretary & Joint Secretary, MoRD, India,
Mr. L.C. Goyal & Mr. Atul Dullo*



*Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development,
Malaysia, H.E. Alexander. Nanta Linggi*

Bank and CIRDAP will jointly organise international conferences on small and medium enterprises by engaging governments as well as private sectors from CMCs. Lastly, CIRDAP and Bangladesh Bank will collaborate in conducting policy oriented research on issues related to small and medium enterprises in selected CMCs.

CIRDAP took the initiative to renew its MoU with National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME) in Hyderabad, India. NI-MSME is the leading Indian institute for capacity building of small and medium enterprises. The Institute is under the auspices of the Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises, Government of Republic of India. NI-MSME offers a wide range of short and medium term courses on management of small and medium enterprises. The Memorandum between CIRDAP and NI-MSME was signed at NI-MSME campus in Hyderabad on 4 May 2013.

In July 2013, the Information and Communication Division of CIRDAP took the initiative to have a discussion with Bangladesh Computer Association about possible collaboration. This paved the way for a joint conference organised by CIRDAP, Bangladesh Computer Association, Ministry of ICT Government of Bangladesh and Indian High Commissioner entitled 'ICT Development in Bangladesh: Opportunities and Challenges' on 24 August 2013.

CIRDAP also discussed the possible cooperation between CIRDAP and the Ministry of ICT Government of Bangladesh. Finally, CIRDAP and the Ministry of ICT Government of Bangladesh signed a MoU which in principle stated that both CIRDAP and the Ministry of ICT will work to promote exchange of experiences in the area of ICT for rural development between Bangladesh and CMCs.

CIRDAP believes that there is a need to reorganise the way CIRDAP organises its annual Technical Committee Meeting. While CIRDAP believes the practices of using Technical



Dr. Balan, Director of KILA



Mr. Mike Robson, FAO Country Representative of Bangladesh



Visit to Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), Ahmedabad



Mr. Sushil Agarwal, Associate Vice President, Group Manager - Client Services, Infosys

Committee Meeting as a forum where CIRDAP can seek input and recommendation from its Technical Committee Members can be continued, the forum can also be extended to serve CIRDAP and its members' greater purposes. One of these greater purposes is to develop stronger relationship between CMCs and other national/international organisations that work on rural developments in the Asia and Pacific region.

For the reason above, CIRDAP organised the International Workshop on South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development for two days, 20-21 May 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia followed by Annual Technical Committee Meeting for another two days 22-24 May 2013. The purpose of the workshop were: (1) to develop closer cooperation between and among Country Link Institutes in CMCs by knowing each other's programmes and activities; and (2) to develop closer cooperation between CIRDAP Country's Link Institutes and other national/regional organisations which operate in CMCs.

CIRDAP International Conference Centre was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh on 11 March 2013. The inauguration marked a new beginning for CIRDAP. CIRDAP now has two well-equipped international standard auditoriums that can accommodate around 250 participants in the ground floor and 150 participants in the first floor. With the new International Conference Centre, CIRDAP currently has two auditorium buildings. CIRDAP still operates the older auditorium for workshop and conferences organised by government and non-governmental organisations. The Government of Bangladesh generously provided this facility and continued to support CIRDAP. The Malaysian government provided CIRDAP with 5 boxes of decorations for the



Achmad Rofie, Assistant Director, NAMCSSTC



FAMA Deputy Director General, Mr. Tn. Hj. Rohizad Ridzwan



Chairperson of Institute of Social Sciences, India, Mr. George Mathews



Prof. Nurul Alam, Team Leader and Dr. Genny Bonomi, Evaluation Analyst OED, Evaluation Team of FAO Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific

beautification of the auditorium facilities. The Government of Iran and India have also contributed for the same purposes by sending sculptures and paintings so that it would help to exhibit the country members of CIRDAP just by observing the decoration.

The CIRDAP Information and Communication Technology Center was officially opened by the Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh on 9 April 2013. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India decided to support CIRDAP for the establishment of International Information Technology and Information Centre in CIRDAP Conference Centre and provided USD 187,000 for the first phase of the establishment of Information Communication and Technology Center. CIRDAP has a great role to play in spreading the benefits of ICT application, proper use of ICT and ICT implication to the member countries. The plan is that the Information Communication and Technology Centre would become a regional knowledge Centre through which CMCs could share and adapt successful models of Information, Communication Technology application on rural development. With the establishment of CIRDAP's new Information, Communication and Technology Centre, CIRDAP can now pursue two important objectives. First, to help encourage greater regional cooperation in the area of innovations and sharing of knowledge in CMCs, best practices in women empowerment, marketing of rural products and leverage of ICT for rural development. Second, to help get community access to ICT through successful e-community models like information kiosks, agriculture marketing portals, etc.

The Research Division initiated the study on the theme "Youth in Development" for the RDR-2013 for the period 2012-13 as suggested in the TC-27 Meeting. Only 10 countries (Bangladesh, India, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) out of 15 CMCs submitted country reports.

The Research Division has implemented three projects during the period, - the project on "Impact of Handicrafts Skill Development for Rural Women's Livelihoods" in a Bangladesh village of Pirojpur District, Southern Coastal Area, a study visit by the Iranian Officials on Micro Finance and Horizontal Learning Programme in Bangladesh and an evaluation study on "Strengthening of Institutional Capabilities and Rural Population for Territorial Development in Chittagong" for F. ETEA, a Spain Based Development Organisation.

Research Director presented a paper on 'Perception and Vulnerability of People Related to Climate Change: A Case Study on Sundarbans Area in Bangladesh' based on the data/information collected from the two coastal villages of Bangladesh in an International Seminar on 'Frontiers of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in South Asia' organised jointly by University of Dhaka and Ministry of Disaster and Rehabilitation of the GoB.

In the pursuit to mobilise resources internally, the division has prepared and submitted several proposals to development partners.

The Research Division has been constantly engaged in the services of our member countries. CIRDAP recently arranged two visits for project officials of "Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar" of the Government of Bangladesh in Vietnam in April and Indonesia in May 2013 to gain hands on knowledge from the community empowerment projects of the Government of Vietnam and Indonesia. CIRDAP has also signed an MoU with Bangladesh Bank to explore possible collaboration to strengthen the activities of micro and small enterprises to alleviate rural poverty in Bangladesh and other CMCs.

Pilot Projects Division (PPD) has been in the process of forming relationships with various government agencies, NGOs/INGOs, Private Sectors and International Donor Agencies/development partners through meetings, dialogues, workshops, exposure visits and submitting project concepts, proposals with an aim to have collaborative programmes on different issues on rural development and poverty alleviation.

CIRDAP organised a luncheon programme in the SOS village with orphans and under-privileged children in commemoration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's (founding leader of Bangladesh) birthday on 17 March 2013 to mark his 93rd birthday anniversary.

A regional workshop on 'Improving Grain Storage at Household Level for Food Security in Rural Areas' was organised by PPD, CIRDAP at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) on 2 April 2013. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Honourable Minister of Food, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop.

Dr. Mohammad Reza Ashgari, DG, International Affairs and Specialised Organisations Bureau, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, I.R. Iran came to CIRDAP, Bangladesh to attend the inauguration of the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), by H.E. Sheikh Hasina the Prime Minister of Government of Bangladesh on 11 March 2013. Apart from attending the inauguration of CICC at CIRDAP, Dr. Mohammad Reza Ashgari also visited various BRAC activities for poverty alleviation and rural development like micro-credit, health, education etc.

CIRDAP also arranged an exposure study of best practices on rural development and poverty alleviation through various agricultural activities in Bangladesh for Dr. Chay Bounphanouxay, Director of Agriculture Research Institution, Lao PDR.

The Training Division is engaged in promoting regional cooperation through capacity building of rural development functionaries. All activities are accomplished with the cooperation of CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs). Training programmes were organised on different themes covering Local Rural Governance, Microfinance, Geographic Information System (GIS), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Result Based Management Performance: Monitoring and Evaluation, Philosophy of Self Sufficiency, ICT and Rural Transformation.

Training Division conducted training programmes during 2013. These programmes were organised in different member countries. The programmes were conducted in collaboration with different partners, international or national and some sponsored by member countries and national and international NGOs. These programmes were mainly sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The Government of Thailand has sponsored one regional programme and Government of Malaysia, MRRD organised an international programme on ICT and Rural Transformation. Training Division also coordinated with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, to admit five candidates from CMCs in Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM).

It is striking to note that 151 senior officials from member countries participated in 8 training programmes organised in 2013. Apart from thematic training programmes, there was a study cum exposure visit of IAS Induction Trainees. The feedback from the participants on each programme was 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.

Encouraged by the evaluation of the training programmes by the participants and their 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 with the Training Division in order to guide and help them in their training and capacity building activities.

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 National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and sponsored by the Government of India. It was inaugurated by H.E. High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Mr. Pankaj Saran IFS on 9 April 2013 during the Valedictory Session of the CIRDAP-NIRD International Training on ICT Applications for Rural Development.

Several publications were brought out by Information and Communication Division viz. CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD), Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) -Vol. XXII No 2 and Vol. XXIII No 1, Vol. XXIII No. 2, Annual Report 2011 and 2012, Reports of EC-28 and GC-18 Meetings and TC 27 and 28, Training publication- 'Microfinance in Select Countries of Asia-Pacific Region', CIRDAP Evaluation Report 2009, Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects etc. ICD also arranged for participation in local book fairs and the 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.

Administration and Finance Division (AFD) maintained liaison with CIRDAP contact Ministry and other relevant Ministries and Departments, in connection with the completion of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC). Similarly, the division also arranged Personnel Advisory Committee and Selection Committee Meetings for extension of tenure of staff members and recruitment of professional and general staff members from time to time. CIRDAP has recruited two staff members on temporary basis as Editorial Assistant and Bearer from January 2012 to August 2013. During this period, some Professional staffs namely, Director (Research) resigned and Director (Training), Programme Officer (Training) and Special Officer (PRMU) were separated from the services of CIRDAP.

Recently, the Government of Indonesia has taken serious steps to renovate the Sub-regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA) office. The renovation indicates that the Government of Indonesia regards SOCSEA as an important organisation. At the same time, SOCSEA has become more active. In April 2013, in collaboration with Non-Aligned Movement South-South Technical Cooperation and International Council of Churches Organisation of Southeast Asian region based in Bali, Indonesia, SOCSEA organised the International Training for Southeast Asian Countries Government Officials on Small and Medium Enterprises. Nine countries from Southeast Asia participated in the training.

SOCSEA in partnership with Director General of Community Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Republic of Indonesia hosted international training programmes on Small and Medium Enterprises. The Ministry of Home Affairs allocated funding of USD 32,000 for ten days' training programme for CMCs. Taking all these factors into account and the fact that there is new enthusiasm under the newly appointed Director General of Rural and Community Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs, there is a strong possibility that SOCSEA can be revived to be more active in implementing its mandate. Nevertheless, some critical questions remain. In order to revive its activity, SOCSEA needs to have full-fledged management so that it can creatively and seriously bring SOCSEA into partnership with other relevant organisations to create programme and activity. However, to fulfill this challenge, SOCSEA needs to look for possible funding, apart from funding coming from the Director General of Rural and Community Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Future Perspective

The Asia-Pacific could become the most dynamic region and a growth centre for the world by 2025. Therefore, sustainable development in the region is critical to achieving sustainable development at the global level. Despite intensive effort at all levels, the region's challenge for sustainable development is yet to be fulfilled. Paradigm shifts are already advocated and practiced to some extent, in particular, for (i) integrating environment and economics policies, including the use of market mechanisms to work for environmental goals, and (ii) increasing bottom-up contributions of civil society for formulating policies towards sustainable development.

The major development paradigms and poverty reduction strategies continue to change in the Asia-Pacific region. This transition makes CMCs review their own policies at national as well as regional levels to suit the changing circumstances. Particularly the issue of food security, climate adoption, poverty alleviation, equity, energy security needs to be addressed comprehensively. The past development experience in the Asian countries suggest the need to go beyond the economic perspective, to take explicit account of the socio-cultural concerns and focus more on poverty at grassroots level and to ensure meeting their sustainable livelihood needs. CIRDAP is the ideal forum to facilitate this process.

There is a need for articulating the rural development policies in the changing context as well as developing and capacity building of local governance to regulate, coordinate and sustain the development process at local level. The present state of development in the countries of Asia-Pacific region reflects the uneven socio-economic impact across countries as well as between the rural and urban areas. Hence, there is a need to protect the poor and the vulnerable groups. There are increasing evidences across the countries that ethnic, tribal and indigenous communities and vulnerable groups are marginalised in the development process. To avoid this it may be required to go beyond the economic perspective to take cognisance of the socio-cultural concerns and focus more on poverty at the grassroots level. Due to the magnitude of the task of rural development, the efforts of the state is complemented by several I/NGOs, micro-credit institutions and civil societies which emerged during the past decades with economic and social agenda, mainly with donors' support. Indeed, they have done a good job to generate economic opportunities at the micro-level and bring out several socio-economic issues on the forefront. But there is a need to sequence them along with the respective government agencies to play a complementing role. A coordinating mechanism has to be developed at local and national level as well as from the donors' perspective to synergise the achievements made by them. The rural development and poverty alleviation programmes are implemented by several ministries of the government, NGOs, civil societies and private sectors. But it is difficult to understand holistically the achievements and issues of multi-sectoral policies. For this, CIRDAP is to develop a comprehensive mechanism for knowledge generation, policy coordination and support at national and regional level.

While calling for strengthening of these emerging initiatives, CIRDAP wishes to promote further comprehensive shifts to reflect long-term views and values of regional cooperation for development of the Asia-Pacific region.



Dr. Cecep Effendi
Director General
CIRDAP

Policy Body Meeting

28th Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP

The Twenty-Eighth Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee and South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development, hereinafter referred to as TC-28, was held at The Media Hotel and Towers, Jakarta, Indonesia from 20-24 May 2013, followed by a South-South Dialogue among CLIs organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia from 25-28 May at Jogjakarta.

TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (except Iran); H.E. Ambassadors of Afghanistan, Myanmar and Fiji, H.E. Secretary General of AARDO; the IRD Expert; Director of CAPSA; CEO of TFnet; Executive Director of SEARCA; Head of the Education of NAETC; Rector of The College of Management for Agriculture and Rural Development 1, Vietnam; Director of BinaSwadaya; Director were present in the inaugural session. Senior Government Officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs; representatives from the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Media also attended the inaugural session.

Inaugural Session

The inauguration of the meeting, followed by a workshop on South-South Technical Cooperation on Sustainable Rural Development was held at The Media Hotel and Towers, Jakarta, Indonesia on Monday, 20 May 2013.



Group photograph of the TC - 28 participants

Mr. Tarmizi A. Karim, Director General, Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment, Government of the Republic of Indonesia, inaugurated TC-28 meeting and the workshop as the Chief Guest. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP gave the welcome address.

The South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development focused on the best practices of Rural Development projects in their own countries which can be replicated by CLIs. The observers such as AARDO, SEARCA, CAPSA, NAETC, Bina Swadaya also presented the mandate of their organisations and pinpointed possible avenues for collaboration with CIRDAP and CLIs.

Business Session

Agenda Item-1: Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda and programme of the TC-28 meeting unanimously.

Agenda Item-2: Election of Chairperson

After calling the TC-28 to order, the TC-27 Chairperson, Director of HARTI, Sri Lanka, invited nominations for the Chairperson, TC-28.

Pakistan proposed Indonesia as the Chairperson of the TC-28, which was seconded by a number of member countries. Director General, Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment, Government of the Republic of Indonesia was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of TC-28.

The outgoing Chairperson of TC-27 from Sri Lanka congratulated the new TC Chairperson and wished him success.

The newly elected Chairperson of TC-28 from Indonesia praised the outgoing Chairperson for his important role played during TC-27 period.

Agenda Item-3: Follow-up Actions on the Suggestions of the 27th Technical Committee Meeting

Special Officer, CIRDAP briefly presented the follow-up actions taken on the suggestions of TC-27.

Actions were taken by CIRDAP and CLIs as per Annex-3.

Agenda Item-4: Presentation of Director General's Report on CIRDAP Activities

DG, CIRDAP presented his report highlighting the SWOT analysis, activities, the new strategy of CIRDAP, the international engagement of CIRDAP, RCF, CIRDAP ICT Center and future management of SOCSEA.

The delegate from Bangladesh enquired about the status of RCF. He pointed out that only nine countries have paid the contribution, and suggested following up on non-paying countries.

The delegate from Fiji suggested the revised guidelines of RCF be placed before the next EC and GC for approval.

The delegate from Malaysia highlighted the status of the proposed programme on the ICT theme to be held in October/November 2013 pending the final confirmation from CIRDAP on airfares and participatory issues.

The delegates from Pakistan and Philippines requested CIRDAP to prepare the training calendar and inform the CLIs in advance.

The delegate from Fiji stated that the proposal to seek support of CIRDAP to establish a National Rural Development Institute is being discussed.

The delegate from Philippines appreciated the initiatives taken by DG, CIRDAP to address the internal and external issues of CIRDAP. Pakistan also endorsed and emphasised the need to analyse the current picture of CIRDAP in view of the available resources.

The delegate from Malaysia suggested that the TC members should be firm and supportive to the decisions made during the TC meeting to have a better consistency during the EC/GC meetings.

The delegate from India suggested that in addition to the support received from CLIs, the funding for travel cost for the training programmes should be explored from organisations like World Bank, Colombo Plan, etc.

The Indian delegate suggested CIRDAP to prepare cross-country proposals to be submitted to development partners.

The Director of CAPSA appreciated the frank and open presentation of DG, CIRDAP and emphasised the need to identify concrete projects and activities that can be carried out jointly by CAPSA and CIRDAP.

The delegate from Myanmar requested the DG, CIRDAP to write a letter clarifying on how the RCF will be used for the benefit of Myanmar such as implementing a small project.

The Afghan delegate pointed out that the RCF is a one time contribution. The annual contribution is the first priority of Afghanistan and RCF will be paid later.

The delegate from Fiji said that the TC is a preparatory meeting and should be continued as it is. He also suggested that a template should be prepared for research proposals. CIRDAP also needs to focus on enticing more members by marketing itself.

The delegate from Lao PDR informed the TC that the new ministry namely Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development has been established. He also highlighted the need of SOCSEA to be evaluated.

The delegate from Bangladesh mentioned that the preference should be given to the research and action research and in order to get good proposals, an award can be given as an incentive.

The delegate from Thailand appreciated the reforms by the new management of CIRDAP and suggested that the salary structure of CIRDAP should be increased.

The delegate from Sri Lanka suggested strengthening CIRDAP by obtaining the regional projects to enhance its financial condition.

Agenda Item-5: Presentation of Divisions' Activities

The presentation of Divisions' activities was covered under DG's Report.

Agenda Item-6: Fixing the Date and Venue of the Next Technical Committee Meetings

The delegate from Vietnam communicated the approval of his government to host the 29th regular meeting of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP in Vietnam. CIRDAP will send a letter to the Government of Vietnam to organise the TC-29 in the month of May 2014.

The delegate from Fiji offered to host the 30th regular meeting in 2015 of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP in Fiji subject to approval of his government.

The Malaysian delegate offered to host the 31st regular meeting in 2016 of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP in Malaysia subject to approval of his government.

Agenda Item-7: Other Matters

The Corpus Fund was discussed and it was suggested that the accumulated RCF fund should be operationalised and only after this the Corpus Fund can be taken up.

Agenda Item-8: Adoption of the Report of the 28th Technical Committee Meeting

The meeting unanimously adopted the report as presented by Director General, CIRDAP.

On behalf of the delegates Brig (Retd) Amanullah thanked the Government of Indonesia and Chairperson of TC-28 and his team for hosting and organising the meeting and making it a success. He commended the TC-28 delegates, and experts for their constructive and positive contribution in the meeting.

The IRD expert, Prof. Dr. Yoshihiro Kaida is completing his tenure after serving nearly a decade. DG and other delegates acknowledged his immense contribution to CIRDAP and RD in the region and thanked him profusely.

The Director General expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Members of Technical Committee for their unstinted cooperation and support to CIRDAP.

The delegates and the Secretary General, AARDO appreciated the local hospitality and arrangements of the meeting. They thanked and highly commended Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, for his commitment, leadership and steering the affairs of CIRDAP.

Brig. (Retd.) Amanullah has submitted his resignation as Director General of NCRD with effect from 9 June 2013.

In the closing of meeting, the Chairman TC-28 thanked the participants for their active participation that had contributed to the meeting's success. He also thanked Director General, CIRDAP and his team for organising and coordinating the meeting in Indonesia.

Suggestions and Recommendations of TC-28 Meeting

1. Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF):

- a. CIRDAP has to write a letter to non-paying countries explaining the benefits of RCF and informing them that nine countries have already contributed to promote regional cooperation.
- b. It is also suggested that the revised guideline and operational plan should project the funds allocation for different scheme.
- c. RCF should benefit all CMCs to motivate non-paying countries to contribute.

2. Mode of Conducting Technical Meeting:

- a. TC should be preceded by a workshop comprising presentation of best practices of CMCs.
- b. The workshop could be on relevant themes with adequate time for presentations.
- c. All CLIs should submit their papers/ presentations on time to CIRDAP to facilitate prior information for effective discussion.
- d. A field visit on the best practice in RD of hosting country will be a part of TC.



TC in progress

3. Outstanding Annual Contributions

- a. This issue will be discussed in the next EC and GC meetings.

4. Evaluation of SOCSEA

- a. DG, CIRDAP will take up the matter with Government of Indonesia on the future of SOCSEA based on its performance and report it to the next EC and GC.

5. Remuneration of Staff

- a. The salary structure of CIRDAP can be increased by managing the budget efficiently.
- b. It is better to pay higher salary to lesser number of efficient staff than pay less for more staff.

6. New Strategy of CIRDAP

- a. DG will prepare the New Strategy of CIRDAP and place it to EC and GC for information and consideration.

7. Increasing Membership:

- a. Efforts need to be taken to bring countries like Cambodia, Bhutan and Central Asia Countries into CIRDAP's fold.

8. Corpus Fund:

- a. It will be taken up when RCF operation is finalised.

Workshop on South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development

Background and Rationale

The Governing Council GC-18 of CIRDAP decided that "In the Technical Committee meeting, experts on rural development including primary stakeholders may be invited to present and discuss path breaking technologies of regional concerns like new agricultural practices. This will provide an opportunity to evolve and use new technologies."

In this backdrop, to make the TC meeting pro-active and effective, TC was clubbed with a Workshop on South South Technical Cooperation on Sustainable Rural Development from 20-22 May 2013.

Goals and Objectives

The workshop aimed to build stronger collaboration between and among CIRDAP's Country's Link Institutes and other relevant institutions in the Asia and Pacific. The forum will create scopes and opportunities of sharing and learning from each other, identifying strength and gaps in CIRDAP's Country Link Institutes and other participating institutions.

The workshop aimed to create a forum whereby each CIRDAP's Link Institutes will help other rural development institutes with their comparative strength in certain areas in rural development and vice versa.

Workshop Contents

The two days workshop included:

- Presentation from each CIRDAP's Link Institutes (CLIs) about the strengths and gaps of each CLI and what it can offer to other CLI and vice versa.
- Successful case studies on sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation that can be a lesson learned from other CIRDAP's member countries.

Participants

- The participants in the workshop were the Head of CIRDAP Link Institutions which is the professional body and think tank of CIRDAP.
- There were CIRDAP Member Countries like Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam where CLIs are not training/research institutions. From these countries UN, CAPSA, SEARCA from the Philippines, College of Rural Management Training from Vietnam and National Institute for Rural Extension Training, Kasatrat University, Thailand were invited.
- CIRDAP Observer Members who were also professional institutions and organisations engaged in rural development and poverty alleviations like AARDO.

Technical Session

The technical session begun with the presentations by the representatives from the invited organisations. Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Head of CAPSA (Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture), Bogor, Indonesia, made a presentation on CAPSA's activities and highlighted the areas for possible collaboration. From SEARCA (Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture), Philippines, Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Programme Head of Knowledge Management Coordinator, made a presentation on 'Promoting Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in Southeast Asia: SEARCA's Thrusts'. Eng. Wassfi Hassan El Sreihin, Secretary General, Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO), New Delhi, India, made a presentation on 'Role of Technology in Rural Poverty Alleviation in Afro-Asian Region'. Mr. Yacob Ahmed, CEO, International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet) made his presentation on 'Role of International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet) in Integrating Smallholders into the Tropical Fruit Value Chain and Enhancing Market Access'. Mr. Mark Ellery, Water and Sanitation Specialist, The World Bank, Bangladesh, made presentation on 'Horizontal Learning Process (HLP)'.

After the presentations by the representatives from invited organisations, presentations were made from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs).



International Conference on South-South Cooperation

Center for Administration of Overseas Corporation, Ministry of Home Affairs Republic of Indonesia, in association with CIRDAP organised the International Conference on South-South Cooperation "Exploring Avenues for Mutual Beneficial Cooperation among South-South Countries" in Indonesia, Jogjakarta, May 26-28 2013.

Senior officials of the Government of Indonesia, delegations from Sri Lanka under South-South cooperation, representatives of the 15 member countries of CIRDAP, international organisations and donor countries such as JICA and AusAID who have been supporting Indonesia in developing the South-South Cooperation concept, Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General CIRDAP among the CIRDAP officials and Director General of UCLG-Aspac, Dr. Rudolf Hauter attended the conference. Director General, Community and Rural Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia, Mr. Ir. H. Tarmizi Karim inaugurated the conference and welcomed all the participants, he thanked them for coming to the cultural city of Jogjakarta, to participate in the International Conference.

The objective of this international conference was to share practices from participating countries as well as to share the Indonesian perspective on South-South Cooperation. The Conference sought to:

- Broaden the participants' understanding about concepts and practices of South-South Cooperation among other schemes of cooperation;
- Identify success factors and channels for South-South Cooperation;
- Create further steps suitable in promoting and fostering South-South Cooperation.

The South-South Cooperation concept was developed as the extension of Non-Aligned Movement, also known as the G-77. The G-77 aimed at articulating and promoting mutual economic interests and realising that they would make better efforts by working together, not only in economic issues but also in broader issues. These countries then organised a more extensive cooperation among developing countries known as South-South Cooperation.

From Indonesia's perspective, South-South Cooperation is a scheme of cooperation and partnership that is evolving and has the potential to be developed.



Workshop in progress

The South-South Cooperation aims at increasing competitiveness of partnering countries by leveraging the strategic environments for the exchange of information, resources, expertise, and technology.

South-South Cooperation, therefore, opens opportunities to countries with comparative competitiveness to establish partnership without competing with each other.

In addition, the South-South Cooperation also opens opportunities to international organisations or other bilateral and multilateral cooperation institutions to participate actively.

The following papers were presented during the International Conference:

1. Contribution of Line Ministries to South-South Cooperation :Overview of Indonesian Approach to South-South Cooperation
2. Indonesian Approach to South-South Cooperation: An Overview.
3. From Non Aligned Movement to South – South Cooperation En Route to Economic Development
4. Development Partners Support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation
5. Sharing Experience of Gorontalo Province, Indonesia and Sothern Province of Sri Lanka
6. Sharing Experience from the National Program for Community Empowerment in Indonesia - Exploring Avenues for Mutual Beneficial Cooperation Among South-South Countries
7. An Experience of Wakatobi (a district of Indonesia comprising 4 Islands): Going World Wide

The representative of CIRDAP Member Countries presented their countries' good practices on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation.

The Secretariat of South-South Cooperation thanked the CIRDAP Member Countries for sharing their good practices and also showed their keen interests to collaborate with CIRDAP and receive the good practices of its member countries.

29th Executive Committee Meeting of CIRDAP

Inaugural Session

The regular twenty-ninth Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as EC-29) was held from the 27th-28th of September 2013. Delegates from all the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) attended the Meeting. H.E. Ambassadors from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Philippines, Deputy High Commissioner from Pakistan and representatives from the embassies of Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar, and some observers and representatives of development partners were also present during the inaugural session.

H.E. Pradeep Jain 'Aditya', Honourable Minister of State for Rural Development, Government of India inaugurated the EC-29 meeting as Chief Guest. Mr. S. Vijay Kumar, IAS, Secretary RD, Government of India and Vice Chairman of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-28) chaired the Inaugural Session. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP.

India and Fiji were unanimously elected as the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of EC-29 respectively.

The meeting proceeded as per agenda. After the deliberation, the Meeting came up with the following major recommendations:



Participants of the EC

Suggestions/Decisions/Recommendation:

Follow-up Action Taken on the Recommendations/Decisions of EC-28 and GC-18

Recommendation: 1/EC-29/2013

The EC-29 took note of the actions taken by DG, CIRDAP and recommended to GC-19 to approve the actions taken on the follow up.

Consideration of the Reports of the Twenty Seventh and Twenty Eighth Regular Meeting of the Technical Committee

Recommendations: 2/EC-29/2013

The Committee appreciated the follow-up actions taken by CIRDAP and recommended the report of the DG, CIRDAP for approval by the GC-19 with suggestions as follows:

- CIRDAP should be able to prepare attractive and value added proposals along with CMCs to match its projects with priority objectives of funding agencies like JICA including subjects of mutual interests which otherwise are interested in having bilateral cooperation.

- CMCs/CLIs may be requested to send articles from their research institutes/universities for APJORD as CIRDAP is currently getting most of the articles from India and Bangladesh alone.
- CLIs which have not yet created links with CIRDAP website may be requested to do so.
- CIRDAP may develop mass media strategies to document important best practices of CMCs and upload on websites like YouTube.
- The best practices have been provided to CIRDAP should be presented in an attractive manner through various media.
- Sri Lanka may consider hosting the training programme and study on post-harvest losses prevention in 2014.
- CLIs may respond to action initiated by CIRDAP on suggestions, recommendations and decisions made by the TC/EC/GC like in the case of scoping study when a questionnaire was circulated to get information from CIRDAP Contact Ministry (CMCs) and CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs).
- Communication made with the CLIs should also be shared with the Contact Ministry.
- Vietnam will organise one training programme for CMCs in 2014 and local hospitality will be borne by his government. But the international travel cost has to be met by the participating/sponsoring countries. The topic of the training will be finalised in consultation with CIRDAP.
- Travel cost is crucial for CIRDAP. The CMCs government needs to be convinced to meet travel expenses as it is a kind of investment for them.
- The outstanding membership contribution of Iran may be discussed bilaterally between CIRDAP and Iran.
- CIRDAP may work out a plan to undertake the visit to other prospective Asian countries such as Bhutan, Yemen, Cambodia, Bhutan and Tajikistan to bring them into its fold.

Director General's Report on the Activities of CIRDAP

Recommendation: 3/EC-29/2013

CIRDAP needs to have more international collaboration to generate resources. CIRDAP should also focus on low cost as well as new technologies such as: e-learning, video-conferences etc., and re-engage with donors on current issues for its sustainability.

Selection of Members of Technical Committee in Accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article-VII of the Agreement

Recommendation: 4/EC-29/2013

- It is recommended that AIT, AARDO, ECO, ICIMOD, SAARC, NAM CSSTC, SEARCA, TFNet, IDRC, IFAD, from among the renowned professional institutions in the Asia-Pacific region be invited as observers in the TC meetings of CIRDAP.
- It is recommended that Dr. Somporn Hanpongpanh be selected as new IRD expert of CIRDAP for the next two years.

Selection of Screening Committee Members for Appointment of Next Director General, CIRDAP (2016-2020)

Recommendation: 5/EC-29/2013

- The EC-29 recommended the following Screening Committee Members for appointment of next Director General, CIRDAP (2016-2020):
 - a) Bangladesh - Representing South Asian Countries.
 - b) Malaysia - Representing the South-East Asian Countries.
 - c) FAO to be requested to send representative(Higher Level).
 - d) One IRD expert - as the internationally acknowledged person in the area of rural development within the region as decided by GC-18.
 - e) Highly qualified female representative.

- It was recommended that CIRDAP Secretariat should circulate a note among CMCs inviting nominations along with CVs of a highly qualified woman within one month to serve on the Screening Committee. The CVs will be examined and three suitable women representatives will be shortlisted to be forwarded to the Chairperson for final selection.

Proposed Guidelines of Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)

Recommendation: 6/EC-29/2013

- CIRDAP should circulate the agenda notes well in advance (at least two weeks before) to enable the members to prepare themselves for the meeting.
- CIRDAP should prepare proposals indicating CMCs' benefit, budgeting process, criteria of selecting beneficiary countries and effective utilisation of the resources for the four schemes.
- Non-paying countries of RCF may be allowed to pay in installments.
- RCF can be budgeted for three year period giving preference to countries which have already contributed and to those who have contributed but have not proposed yet. Based on this the patterns that emerges over the next two years can be analysed by CIRDAP Secretariat and come out with a proposal on whether to continue the scheme or not.
- CIRDAP Secretariat should prepare a three years' engagement plan that would include a budget based on its past experiences. RCF has limited funds and needs to be carefully planned for its utilisation. CIRDAP should consider apportioning the budget utilisation of one fourth of the RCF for the first year and the remaining could be utilised for the next two years.
- Best practices should be publicised to attract prospective participants through RCF.
- Subject to the above, revised guidelines of RCF were approved as suggested by CIRDAP Secretariat.

Engagement of CIRDAP with CMCs on One Research/Action Research and Training Programme

Recommendation: 7/EC-29/2013

- India has already provided support to CIRDAP to construct the ICT centre. The country is further interested to provide cooperation through specialised trainings and workshops on issues such as climate change, livelihoods, local governance, rural connectivity and social security issues including, food security, and also to open a CIRDAP local office in NIRD premises.
- Malaysia proposed to disseminate the best practice of rural transformation programme (RTP).
- Pakistan proposed to organise training on a cost sharing basis.
- Bangladesh also offered to share best practices on community biogas and integrated water resource management.
- Similarly, Vietnam also offered to share New Rural Development Programme.
- Indonesia offered to share best practices on community development.

Consideration of the Report of the Audited Final Accounts for the year 2010-2011 and Interim Accounts of 2012

Recommendation: 8/EC-29/2013

The Executive Committee took notes of the observations of the Auditor and the responses of the CIRDAP Secretariat. The EC-29 noted CIRDAP responses on the observations of the Auditor. However, the EC-29 advised CIRDAP to follow the rules and regulations strictly as follows:

- a) CIRDAP should consider outsourcing the services of lower level staff.
- b) CIRDAP will ensure recruitment of staff through proper advertisement.
- c) The committee suggested CIRDAP to hire a Consultant as early as possible to update the Operation Manual. The CIRDAP Secretariat will be assisted (e-communication) by a Sub-committee comprising of: Bangladesh, India, and the Philippines.
- d) Age of retirement should be followed.

Revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the Seventeenth Biennium (2012-2013)

Recommendation: 9/EC-29/2013

Revised administrative budget (General Fund) and revised programme budget (Trust Fund) for the Seventeenth Biennium (2012-2013) be recommended to the GC-19 for approval.

Proposed PWB for Eighteenth Biennium (2014-2015)

Recommendation: 10/EC-29/2013

After the discussion, EC-29 changed the proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the eighteenth biennium for approval of GC-19 on the line with the decisions taken under the agenda 13

Administrative Matters

Recommendation: 11.1/EC-29/2013

EC-29 took note on the proposal and recommended to continue with the existing system of Country contribution.

Festival Bonus

Recommendation: 11.2/EC-29/2013

After due deliberation, the EC-29 accepted the proposal to give one month festival bonus to all regular employees of the Centre as per details given in the Annex-15. However, festival bonus should be provided from the Auditorium/Cafeteria income only.

COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment)

Recommendation: 11.3/EC-29/2013

The EC-29 agreed to introduce COLA with 5% increase of the salary to CIRDAP Staff with effect from January 2014 for two years from the General Fund. The matter will be considered afresh in every biennium.

House Rent for Professional and General Staff Members of CIRDAP

Recommendation: 11.4/EC-29/2013

The proposal for house rent for Professional and General Staff Members has been deferred for the time being.

Education grant for Directorial and Professional Staff

Recommendation: 11.5/EC-29/2013

The EC-29 agreed to enhance the education grant of Directorial and Professional Staff from USD 600 to USD 2400 per child per year with effect from 2014 and restricted to two children only studying in Bangladesh.

Other Matters

Recommendation: 12/EC-29/2013

- The EC-29 agreed to allow DG, CIRDAP to use the annual interest accrued from the Corpus Fund for core activities to benefit the CMCs. Prior approval will have to be taken from the GC Chairperson for any excess expenditure.
- The contribution to Corpus Fund will be only from the auditorium /cafeteria earnings (50%).

Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting

The delegate from Fiji welcomed the request from all the EC members to host the next EC/GC meeting in 2015 in Fiji. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be finalised in consultation with CIRDAP Secretariat.

19th Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP

Inaugural Session

The Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as GC-19) was held in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India on 30th September 2013. His Excellency, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the meeting. The inaugural programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by H.E. the President. Delegates from all the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Pakistan and Vietnam attended the meeting. H.E. Ambassadors from the Embassy of Philippines and Indonesia, representative from the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi, India and representatives of development partners based in Delhi were also present during the inaugural session.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Honourable Minister for Rural Development of the Government of India and Vice Chairperson of GC-18, Mr. Mohammad Ali Nikbakht, Honourable Deputy Minister for Planning and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran representative of the Outgoing Chairperson of CIRDAP Twenty-Eighth Governing Council (GC-18), Mr. S. Vijay Kumar, IAS, Secretary (RD), Government of India and Chairperson of CIRDAP Twenty Ninth Executive Committee (EC-29) also spoke in this occasion. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP.

India and Fiji were unanimously elected as the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of GC-19 respectively.



H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, delivering the inaugural address at GC 19

Business Session

Agenda 1: Adoption of Agenda and Time-Table

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ali Nikbath, Chairperson of EC-28 and Honourable Deputy Minister for Planning, Economic and International Affairs, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran representing Chairperson of GC-18 placed the Provisional Agenda and the Time-Table before GC-19 for adoption.

Agenda 2: Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson

India was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of GC-19. Fiji was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chairperson of GC-19.

H.E Mr. Muhammed Ali Nikhbath, Chairperson of EC-28 representing the Chairperson of GC-18 congratulated the newly elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and thanked the GC members for their support and cooperation.

The newly elected Chairperson thanked the house for electing him unanimously. He expressed hope to discharge this responsibility to take the mandate of CIRDAP forward in collaboration with CIRDAP Member Countries.

Agenda 3: Director General's Report on the Activities of CIRDAP

Director General, CIRDAP presented the activities of CIRDAP for the period 2012 – 2013 for consideration of GC-19.

The delegates appreciated the Director General, CIRDAP for his comprehensive report and the initiative taken for enhancing the image of CIRDAP during his tenure.

The Director General's Report was adopted.

Agenda 4: Consideration of the Report of the Twenty Ninth CIRDAP Executive (EC-29)

The Director General, CIRDAP presented the Report of the EC-29 with major recommendations of the meeting before the GC-19.

Decision I/GC-19/2013

Since there was no comments/suggestion from the members of the house, GC-19 unanimously adopted the report.

Agenda-5: Statements by GC Members on Rural Development in the CIRDAP Member Countries

The Chairperson of GC-19 requested the honourable members to present their country statements in alphabetic order. The synopsis of the country statements are given below.

Afghanistan

With over 70% of the Afghan population living in rural areas, rural development is seen as a crucial sector for the development and the stability of the country. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) focuses all its activities towards the goal of increasing the social, economic and political well-being of rural society, through the provision of basic services, strengthening local governance and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Through its people-centred development ethos, MRRD continues to establish a productive, participatory partnership between the government and the people it serves. The implementation of national development programmes has allowed the MRRD to work towards equity in its investments, allowing all communities to participate in creating an enabling environment to develop social capital and take tentative steps towards developing a citizenry which is aware and articulate in regard to its needs and expectations.

Human poverty in Afghanistan is a multidimensional problem that includes fluctuating insecurity; inequalities in accessing productive assets and social services; poor health, education and nutritional status; weak social protection systems, vulnerability to macro and micro-level risks (both natural and human-triggered); human displacement; gender inequalities and political marginalisation. Much of the country's rural infrastructures are in a serious state of disrepair and a degraded environment which has, forced the rural population into subsistence agriculture. This has left the country in a state of extreme poverty and food insecurity. Achieving significant reduction in poverty requires a strong focus on agriculture and rural employment generation, promotion of sustainable livelihoods and rural infrastructure development. In the Afghan context, growth needs to be labour-intensive, equitable, sustainable, environmentally friendly, and conducive to ensure social development.

Poverty reduction, stabilisation, and economic growth in rural Afghanistan are targets that have been incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Afghan National Development

Strategy (ANDS), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Strategy (ARDSS). It has been reflected in institutional and programmatic strategies of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). During the Kabul Conference, July 2010, the GoIRA agreed to focus on reform of service delivery institutions, policy decisions and the implementation of the National Priority Programmes, within the framework of a prioritised Afghanistan National Development Strategy. MRRD is one of the four ministries involved in the Afghanistan Rehabilitation Cluster working towards the ANDS goals and objectives. Additionally, during the Tokyo conference held in July 2012, the international community committed USD 16 million to build Afghanistan up to 2020.

MRRD is responsible for a portfolio of national development programmes which provide service delivery through rural infrastructure (including tertiary roads, water supply and irrigation) and develop local governance institutions at the sub-national level. The two programmes with the largest national outreach incorporate community-based governance, namely the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) and the government's flagship National Solidarity Programme (NSP), supported by two technical programmes, the National Rural Access Programme (NRAP) and the Rural Water Supply, Sanitation & Irrigation Programme (RuWatSip). These programmes combine to create improved livelihoods in a fertile and conducive environment for economic regeneration, the main engine for moving out of the poverty. Furthermore, the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) has been designed to capitalise upon the institution-building and productive infrastructure necessary to provide critical pathways and pragmatic solutions to increasing economic regeneration. Finally, the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) is a cross-cutting entity ensuring uniform message identification and appropriate delivery mechanisms across all MRRD programmes. Some of the programmes are as follows:

- a) The National Solidarity Programme (NSP)
- b) The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)
- c) National Rural Access Programme (NRAP)
- d) Rural Water Supply, Sanitation & Irrigation Programme (RuWatSIP)
- e) Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP)
- f) Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD)

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has made significant progress in food production, the country is now on the verge of attaining food self-sufficiency. Child and maternal mortality rate have substantially reduced, life expectancy has increased remarkably, gender parity in primary and secondary education has been achieved significantly, and rural road network has expanded commendably. Incidence of income poverty decreased from 59% in 1991 to 27% in 2012. Poverty declined by 1.8% points between 2005 and 2012 at the rate of 1% point during the previous two decades. Bangladesh ranked first among all other countries working for achieving MDGs. The success lies in sincere commitment and strong leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh has already achieved three targets of MDGs: such as removing gender disparity in Primary and secondary education, universal primary education, and access to safe drinking water.

Some of the important programmes of Bangladesh providing excellent impact on the poverty alleviation efforts of rural poor are worth mentioning: (a) Micro-Credit Revolution, (b) Attainment of Poverty Alleviation, (c) Institutional Network for Implementing Rural Development Policies, (d) Comprehensive Village Development Program (CVDP) is the yield of One Village One Cooperative concept, and (e) One House One Farm (Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar).

Fiji

Fiji is one of the most developed of the Pacific island economies, though still with a large subsistence sector. Per capita GDP stands at US\$ 4,400 (as of 2010). While agriculture accounts for only 10% of the GDP (versus 77% by services sector), it occupies 70% of the labour force. The country's economy is significantly dependent on tourism (about 0.5 million visitors per year) and remittances from

abroad. The sugar industry has traditionally occupied a dominant role, but has declined significantly in recent years. The country has fairly high human development indicators, with life expectancy at birth of 71.3 years (68.7 and 74 years for males and females, respectively). The literacy rate stands at 93.7%, with average years of schooling at 13 years.

Of the 800,000 population of Fiji, around 40 per cent of these live in the rural areas. Rural Development in Fiji has been regarded as a series of integrated measures aimed at improving the productive capacity and living standards of people who live outside urban areas and depend on the exploitation of the soil. This includes those people engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing, rural industries and handicrafts, trade, commerce and services in the rural areas. Rural Development was established in 1969 with the aim to:

- a) Promote more self-help by the people for their own betterment, stimulate rural communities to seek their own improvement to articulate their needs and the ways to meet them by their own efforts and where genuinely desirable and practicable enable them to receive technical, financial and material assistance, particularly where economic benefits will result;
- b) Associate the people in rural areas with the preparation and implementation of district development plans as an integral parts of National Development and by their active participation and understanding of problems to contribute more fully to the future progress of Fiji;
- c) Provide a framework for all the people living in the same locality to work together for practical ends, in the absence of a comprehensive rural local government, for the cooperation of different communities; and
- d) Coordinate the work of all agencies in the rural areas to achieve the above aims.

Rural Development regions in Fiji were dissented into 18 districts with development committees represented by the people. Participation of people was reflected in the book plans to provide focus in the regions for the awareness of all.

Rural Development Programmes were classified as two types:

- I. Those considered as big in size and because of its technical complexity must fit with the national strategy and be controlled, financed and executed by central government.
- II. Those involving the people in planning and execution with government assisting communities to complete its project.

Since its establishment, Rural Development has undergone many changes to its name and structure. Today, known as the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management with the role of coordination and implementation of rural development programs and auxiliary role of administration of rules and regulation on behalf of government, its scope is massive, its coverage wide – 4 Divisions traversing land and sea, catering for 40 per cent of Fijis population.

The decision making mechanism for rural development is as endorsed in the Integrated Rural Development Framework, 2009. The Divisional Commissioner is empowered to take the leadership role in the Divisions overseeing rural development program executions. Project proposals are tabled at Provincial and Divisional Development Boards before submission to the National Steering Committee for final endorsement and budget approval for the coming year. Development Board members include local representations and deliberate on the submission of projects tabled.

Though the Integrated Rural Development Framework has endorsed hopes to enhance cooperation in rural development at Divisional level, effective planning and implementation depend largely on team work and willing cooperation and goodwill of all concerned. The Commissioner is responsible for the coordination of development planning however; this role has been constrained by sectoral approach and sectoral budgeting and resourcing.

Poverty in Fiji is driven by multiple factors. Poverty varies considerably by household and individual characteristics which raises a number of social policy issues. Of these characteristics, old age, number of children, education and employment of household-heads has particularly strong links to poverty.

Poverty reduction is the most difficult challenge facing Fiji and its people and the greatest obstacle to the pursuit of sustainable socioeconomic growth. Reducing policy has been a core policy objective of

successive Government for years. In the mid-1980s, Fiji's economic policies were based on import-substitution aiming at maximising economic growth through boosting consumption. With the influence of the International Monetary Fund, Fiji further amended these policies based on trade liberalisation which aimed at export-led growth. The above national policy includes welfare policies which are centred on two broad issues:

- Reducing income inequality and poverty, and
- Achieving universal primary education.

Fiji government's commitment to achieve the above national policy was further strengthened when Fiji signed the Millennium Declaration in 2000. One of the eight MDG goals under the Millennium Declaration was the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger. Whilst there is no general or official definition of poverty, Fiji has been assessed on poverty with many definitions depending on who conducted the survey. The definition of poverty as currently adopted by the Bureau of Statistics for Fiji is defined by the percentage of population living below the Basic Needs Poverty Line (BNPL) which has only two components namely the Food Poverty Line and the Non-Food poverty Line.

Under the Fiji's charter called the People's Charter for Change and Peace Progress (PCCPP) it was mandated that Pillar 8 of the PCCPP is to reduce poverty to a negligible level by 2015. This reflects well with the MDG goal No.1 which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Now with the current Roadmap for Democracy Sustainability and Socio-Economic development (RDSSSED), the goal is to reduce the proportion of population below the basic needs poverty line from 35% to less than 15% by 2020. RDSSSED document is a six years' Strategic Framework, and acts as Fiji's roadmap for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-economic development from 2009 - 2014.

This framework aims to achieve three broad objectives:

- Good Governance;
- Economic Development; and
- Social-cultural Development.

The main social assistance programme of the Government of Fiji is the Family Assistance Program (FAP). Overall, low-income household targeting accuracy of the FAP is very good. In 2009, 70% of the recipients were in the 1st and 2nd quintiles of per capita consumption distribution. However, even among the people in the 1st (poorest) quintile the coverage of the FAP is limited. A key findings of this diagnostic is that because of low coverage (and large under-coverage of the poorest), limited per-capita generosity, and design features where the FAP does not take into account the household size, its effect on alleviating poverty is small. Fiji's Family Assistance Scheme provides a Pacific example of poverty alleviation. A safety net for those in serious need, it currently consists of a monthly allowance of FJ\$ 60-100. Fiji also offers and delivers disability benefits and grants specifically targeting children.

ICT has been identified as one of the tools among other approaches to reduce poverty and assist the marginalised sectors of the society. As agriculture is the mainstay of Fiji's economy providing 28% of the total employment in the formal sector, and directly and indirectly employs 65% of the total population it has been a major stronghold of Fiji's economy. Agriculture therefore poses a great potential for employment generation and contribution towards Fiji economy. It is expected and proven that the consistent and sustainability of economic growth in any given country addresses the issue of poverty at an acceptable level. From research review, the use of ICT within the agriculture sector has strongly revealed that ICT can be the most effective tool to enhance performance in the agriculture sector thus contributing to the nation's economy, which ultimately contributes to the alleviation of poverty.

Fiji has acknowledged the capability of ICT in the agricultural sector as a means of addressing poverty even though this is yet to be proven on the ground. But with the best practices learned from friends far and near, this has guaranteed that this ICT endeavour would address the performance gap of the agricultural industry hence positively contributing to Fiji's economy, thus alleviating poverty in Fiji.

India

India's developmental efforts right from the first Five Year Plan since 1950s based on Growth with Social Justice and Equity. Inclusive growth is the main strategy in rural development has been the prime focus of all the plans of India in improving the quality of life of the rural people for almost 68.84% of our population. The allocation of funds for the rural development programmes has seen quantum jump through successive Five Year Plans with the outlays going up from Rs.256 billion in 8th Plan to about Rs.4039 billion in 12th Five Year Plan.

The rural development plan in India consists of providing an adequate level of food security and other essentials such as education, health and sanitation, employment, skilling, social safety net, drinking water, etc. The objective is to expand economic and social opportunities for all individuals and groups, reduction in disparities and greater participation by people in decision making process. With a planned approach to rural development, India has been able to minimise the percentage of rural people living below poverty line from 37.3% in the year 1993-94 to about 21.92% at present. The Government is committed to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of poverty alleviation and rural development well before the target year of 2015 is expected that by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan, the poverty ratio will be reduced substantially.

There are Indian experiences in the critical areas of poverty alleviation, employment generation, and infrastructure development, strengthening of rural livelihoods, skilling and provision for social security. Government continues to explore new ways and means to reach out to the rural poor and the deprived, particularly in the most backward and remote areas of our country.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), passed by the Indian Parliament in 2005, is a land mark initiative conferring a legal right for 100 days of employment in a year to every rural household demanding work. The flagship programme supplements employment opportunities in rural areas, strengthens grass root process of democracy and transparency and accountability in governance. During this year, up to August, 2013; 26.6 million households were provided employment and about 10.19 million works were taken up. The assets created result in sustained employment for future growth and self-sufficiency. The wage disbursement under the programme is done through a wide network of banking institutions and post offices to ensure transparency.

Providing housing facility to the rural poor also forms an important part of our national effort towards enhancement of the quality of life in rural areas. The strategy at present is to provide the minimum required subsidy and facilitate access to institutional finance at affordable cost. Indira Awas Yojana is a flagship programme to provide shelter to rural families living below poverty line. The selection of beneficiaries is done by the respective village Gram Sabha (Village Assembly). Sanitary latrine and smokeless ovens (kitchens) are an integral part of the house design. Cost effective and disaster resistant technologies are also being promoted through innovative housing and rural, building centres. Since launching of the scheme till August, 2013; 31.2 million houses were constructed in rural India by the people living below poverty line.

For the people living below poverty line, there is a dedicated scheme to promote self-employment in rural areas to provide them sustainable income and skilling. The scheme known as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana has been restructured as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and has been launched in June 2011. NRLM renamed as 'Aajeevika' enables shift from the present allocation based strategy to a demand driven strategy, enabling the states to formulate their own livelihoods-based poverty reduction action plans; focus on targets, outcomes and time bound delivery; continuous capacity building, imparting requisite skills and creating linkages with livelihoods opportunities for the poor; and monitoring against targets of poverty outcomes. In the field of skilling of rural youth, we have embarked on an ambitious plan of utilising our population dividend by skilling 5 million rural youth during the 12th Five Year Plan Period, from 2012-2017. In the present financial year alone we would be imparting skills/training to 800,000 persons.

Land is critically important national resource, the efficient management of which is vital for economic growth and development of rural areas. To meet the imperative need of responding effectively to the challenges of managing scarce land resources, Ministry attaches utmost importance for development of rainfed/degraded/wastelands by increasing their productivity following the principles of

community empowerment'. Fund allocation for watershed programmes has increased 8 times during the last decade. In the area of land reforms, more than 6.44 million tenants have been conferred or confirmed of their ownership rights. More than 5.09 million acres of surplus land have been distributed to about 5.72 million beneficiaries.

Further, to address various issues related to land acquisition and resettlement and to ensure the right to fair compensation and transparency, The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013 has been passed by the Parliament. This will integrate rehabilitation and resettlement process with land acquisition, ensure transparent and participative processes, minimum displacement, minimum acquisition with adequate compensation, scientific calculation of market value of the land being acquired and misuse of urgency clause has been prevented in acquisition.

While the specially designed programmes focus on overall development of rural areas and alleviation of poverty, the Ministry of Rural Development also has welfare programmes aimed at providing social security net. The programme covers vulnerable sections of the society including old age persons, widows and disabled. This programme is known as National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and provides subsistence to the targeted beneficiaries by a minimum monthly pension and one time lump-sum payment to such families who have lost their bread winners. The programme has presently a coverage of 30 million people.

An effective governance system has to ensure people's participation at various stages of formulation and implementation of the public policies and programmes, transparency in the operation of the schemes and adequate monitoring. Sustainable rural development should address various factors, such as enhancement of the livelihoods of the rural poor, increase in their productive capacity, generation of durable community assets, assimilation of new technologies in production and marketing, access to sub-national, national and global markets for the rural producers, creation of sensitivity towards sustainable harvesting of natural resources as well as canalising of consumer preference towards items produced by the rural producers and so on. Evidently, this requires not only individual efforts, but also close cooperation between and among countries on issues which are of common interest to all.

Indonesia

The problem of rural development and poverty alleviation in Indonesia has been the prime concern of the government since approximately 60% of the present population of 240 million live in the rural areas and most of them have a low standard of living. The emergence of poverty in the rural areas is mainly caused by the limited access to quality job, lack of linkage among agricultural sector (primary), industrial sector (processing) and supporting services; lack of rural infrastructures and facilities; low quality of rural human resources; and lack of capability of community-based institutions and organisations to facilitate rural communities in development activities.

Moreover, Indonesia has been implementing its development programmes, including rural and poverty alleviation programmes over the years based on the paradigm of top-down, trickle down effect, centralistic, and uniform approaches without taking into account the diversified socio-cultural phenomena across the country which creates some social problems and were contrary to the original process of democratisation and empowerment of the local people. The government has been aware of it and since 1998 has been in the process of changing and reforming in political environment and democratisation including in development approaches in particular by setting up a new mechanism to rural development and poverty alleviation based on regional approaches. According to the new mechanism and approaches the role of local government in rural development and poverty eradication is very important. The government has provided a greater autonomy to the local governments to plan, implement, and manage rural development and poverty alleviation, and the central government just provided facilitation and direction.

The high number of poor people in Indonesia has prompted the government to make rural development and poverty alleviation the top priorities in its national mid-term development plan for 2010 – 2014. It was estimated that at the end of 2014, the number of the poor people will be 8% to 10% according to the national mid-term development plan. In order to address the rural development and poverty alleviation the government has formulated and determined the following policy

directions: (1) creating the quality employment opportunities in the rural areas; (2) promoting agricultural products marketing and other rural products for sustainability of supplies; (3) promoting access of the community particularly women to productive resources for business development; (4) empowering rural communities through improving their quality, and strengthening institution and social capital of the rural community; (5) enhancing the welfare of rural community through fulfilling their basic rights in education and health services; and (6) promoting environmentally sound agricultural and non-agricultural activities according to sustainable development principles.

In addition, the government has established the following main programmes and activities, following the above policy directions, such as:

1. Rural Community Empowerment Programme, and coordinating the role of stakeholders in rural development.
2. Local Economic Development Programme.
3. Rural Infrastructures Development Programme.
4. Rural Human Resources Development Programme Natural Resources Protection and Conservation Programme.
5. National Programme for Community Empowerment (Rural PNPM)

Lao PDR

The Lao Delegate conveyed the Government's support to the Dhaka Declaration on Rural Development in 2010 which aligns well with the UN Millennium Goals, the other UN and the International Declarations and Conventions on Food Security, Environmental Conservation, Pro-poor Policy Support, real Interventions to reducing hunger and poverty. The delegate expressed the Governments' desire to continue in supporting CIRDAP to its challenging mandate and overcoming the growing challenges to eradicate hunger, poverty while addressing at the same time the increasing threats caused by climate change. He also mentioned that CIRDAP would provide continued support to the member countries and especially to Lao PDR in its efforts to sustain and achieve long-term food security, and sustainable use of its rich natural resources which will not only benefit Laos, but also the Region as well, since all are inter-connected in the pursuit to realising common goals set in the Millennium Development Goals, and to collectively addressing the negative impacts of climate change.

Lao PDR is an agrarian country. About 75% of the population is engaged in agriculture of which 60% engaged in subsistence manner. Rural poverty is a chronic and rampant problem. From time to time the government has paid great effort to fight against poverty. As a result, rural development and poverty eradication committee was established under the Prime Minister Office. The committee has the mandate to supervise, coach and coordinate with other sectors to materialise and achieve the ultimate goal of the government in achieving MDG1 by the year 2015 and gradually lifting the country from the least developed country by the year 2020. Many projects with the government budgets and international donors are implementing from time to time and the poverty reduction rate decreases significantly within a decade from 20% in 2000 to presently 10%.

Rural development and poverty eradication is considered as ground battle No.1, in the nation agenda that needs active participation from all stakeholders, particularly rural people. Without active participation of these people success is not be possible. The government provides the clear policy and strategic approach to deal with rural development and poverty eradication based on local ownership. In order to accelerate the movement, recently the government has adopted a new approach as referred in the Lao word "Sam Sang" which simply means three builds: (i) builds the province as a strategic Unit, (ii) builds the district as a stronger logistic Unit and (iii) builds the village as implementing Unit. This approach is under piloting in 51 districts and 108 villages nationwide.

In accelerating the process of getting rid of the poverty in rural areas, the government encourages the agricultural sector to raise its productivity particularly promoting commercial production. Without raising productivity of agriculture production, the country would not have been able to sustain a rapid transition out of poverty. In addition, getting farmers into groups and developing agricultural markets and market access is a strategic policy to improve in rural economy.

Within this strategic framework, the Lao Government continues to support farmers through easy access to agricultural inputs, dissemination of new farming and post-harvest technologies through the extension system, and substantial investments in irrigation. These efforts are further supported by the programmes to address the challenge of climate change, conserving and wisely using Lao's diverse genetic resources and building strong cooperatives and farmers' organisations. We believe these measures will make the Lao agriculture sector more productive to ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of food to meet the nutritional needs of our people.

The delegate expressed his gratitude for the continued strong support provided by the CIRDAP Member Countries, CIRDAP and all development partners, as a result of which the Lao Agriculture Sector has recorded a steady growth and since the year 2000 the country has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production.

He also expressed his hope that the outcomes of this Conference will further strengthen CIRDAP to effectively carry out its mandate and core functions towards achieving in contributing to the Strategic Objectives of the eradication of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition of the member countries. In this regard, he conveyed the full support of the Government of Lao PDR to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 proposed by the Director General.

Malaysia

Since 1957, rural development has been considered an important component of national development. Many strategies have been introduced to promote the well-being of rural communities ranging from the development of the agriculture sector, rural modernisation, resettlement schemes, and the provision of public facilities and infrastructure for human and community development.

Although currently, the overall percentage of the rural population in Malaysia has shown a decrease from 71.6% in 1970 to 27% currently, the Malaysian rural population has increased from a figure of 7.4 million in 1970, to 8 million in 2013. Though small in percentage, these 8 million people still represent a significant proportion of the Malaysian population, and they are essentially, the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development's main focus. In view of serving the rural population, the country's highest priority has been to address three interconnected objectives. First, is the eradication of poverty and improvements of quality of life, secondly narrowing the social and economic disparity between urban and rural communities, while the third goal is focused on economic expansion through enabling greater access to markets. There is evidence to show that by addressing these objectives, improved economic wellbeing and increased income flows to the rural areas may be expected.

In Malaysia, as in many rural areas, the economic activities of the rural population is agricultural and commodity based, which is very much linked to the global prices of goods. However, the impact of it may be minimised by empowering the people, especially the youths, who are viewed as the agents of change, to bring in new possibilities to rural areas.

Malaysia, at present is streamlining programmes to focus on almost 3 million rural youths - those who are the future of rural Malaysia. The rural youths are now the mainstay for several of economic empowerment initiatives under the Rural Transformation Program (RTP) - a holistic effort in transforming the rural areas in order to expedite physical and economic development, yet maintaining the rural identity.

Under RTP, it has embarked upon the 21st Century Village Programme, which focuses on economic empowerment through cooperatives for the local community based on the particular strength of the area. Assistance is given to selected villages for economic projects which have been planned by the villagers themselves, with the facilitation and help of officers on the ground. Some villages propose handicraft making, some want to do agriculture based activities while others prefer offering the homestay experience. All of these proposals come from the ground up, while they are assisted in terms of grants in kind and advisory services. The fact that most of the movers of these cooperative are the village youths themselves cannot be ignored.

RTC, which is the main vehicle for RTP, is an effort to create an integrated services centre in the rural area, which provides the facilities for all manners of economic and social services - from agriculture,

food processing, monetary funding, health services and skills and training programmes – in order to upgrade the standard of living of the rural people. Malaysia now has 4 RTCs throughout Malaysia – with more in the pipeline, which is linked to 213 Mini RTCs in each district nationwide, to disseminate those services to the villages in their vicinity. The youths in particular are focused upon under the RTC initiative, where the Malaysia youth volunteer movement, 1M4U, and undergraduates from local universities, to be Rural Ambassadors are roped in. These Rural Ambassadors engage with the rural communities, particularly the rural youths, by doing motivational programmes and volunteer works, to spur on youthful enthusiasm towards creating a better quality of life for these youths and their families. With this effort, it is hoped that the rural youths are inclined to enhance their capacity – be it furthering their studies, entering the job market, upgrading skills or doing entrepreneurial efforts – and ultimately have a better future.

Rural Business Challenge is another youth based approach, where Malaysia conducts a business model competition among youth entrepreneurs to encourage better planning and execution of entrepreneurial efforts.

Myanmar

Rural development plans and strategies in Myanmar are developed and implemented to achieve equitable and balanced development in reducing socio-economic development gap, between different regions. It has also been recognised that rural development depends on education, health as well as other infrastructure development. The Government of Myanmar is constantly engaged in the rural development with the task of ensuring smooth and better transportation in rural areas, supplying sufficient water for drinking and agriculture purposes, improving the education standard of rural population upgrading of health standard and developing the socio-economic status of the 70 per cent of the total population who resides in rural areas and majority of them depends on agriculture and other agriculture related activities for their livelihood. Agriculture Sector in Myanmar provides 32.9% of GDP and 13.7% of total export/ earning, which also provides 61.2% of employment opportunity of the nation.

During the past two and half years, the Government, has undertaken four stages of reforms, political reform and inclusiveness as first stage and economic reform and uplift the living standards of the Myanmar people as a second stage. The third stage is public administrative reform to foster good governance, clean government, transparency and accountability and the forth is private sector development.

In order to fulfill the second stage reform, rural development and poverty alleviation is to be done as prioritised by Honourable President Mr. Thein Sein to reduce poverty indicator from current 26% to 16% by 2015. National Committee on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation has recently been formed to assist better performance of rural development activities emphasising eight specific sector wise development.

Myanmar has been prioritising to fulfill basic and socioeconomic needs of the people, by providing electricity supply, adequate drinking irrigation water and small and medium enterprises and industrial development for creating more job opportunities in the upcoming 30 months' plan of activities. A national level workshop on Rural Development has been successfully completed in 2012 and the major outcome of the workshop highlighted the way forward to implement the activities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been engaged in almost all areas such as, quality seed production, good agriculture practice, establishing of model farms with Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), on-going research and development on GAP, farm mechanisation, irrigation, loan disbursement and encouraging for one village one product practice, private investment in agro industries, market access and safeguarding the farmers. As a result of these measures, the people of the rural areas today enjoy favorable conditions than any time in recent history with greater income, higher employment figures, higher standard of living and better quality of life. Furthermore, development of rural power and safe water supply plays crucial role in socio economic development of rural people. So far, about 17000 villages of over 64000 villages have been supplied with electricity through linkage of power line with national grid, diesel generators, and small-scale hydropower, bio-fuel generator and solar system in regions and states.

One of the major tasks is to improve the basic infrastructure of road and communication networks. The construction of rural roads in the whole country was almost three times increased from 12,995 miles in 1996 to 34,468 miles in 2009. The improvements of rural bridges construction were reached altogether 10,272 in

2009 which would facilitate transport and rural trading between the different regions in Myanmar. At present, telecommunication networks have been established in many regions of Myanmar.

In order to escalate the socioeconomic development measures for rural populace and to assist the task of National Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Program, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development was recognised on 10 August 2013. The Ministry has set up 3 immediate priority areas. These are provision of safe drinking water at all the villages across the country, undertaking rural electrification and implementing and assisting food security measure.

Myanmar is fully confident that, CIRDAP Member Countries should be able to explore the ways and means to achieve the common goal- alleviation of rural poverty in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pakistan

Pakistan is one of the most populous countries in the world consisting of 184.35 million people which is growing at an average rate of 2.00 per cent presently. Rural areas in Pakistan have been playing an important role in the overall development of the country that accommodates 62% of the population and shares 42 million labour force in the labour market in the country. The unemployment rate in rural areas is estimated to be 4.68% that accounts for almost 2 million un-employed labour force. The per capita income has grown at an average rate of about 3.4 per cent and in terms of dollars rose from US\$ 1254 in 2010-11 to US\$ 1368 in 2012-13. The economy grew at the rate of 3.6 per cent during the year 2012-13 which is much below its potential, but seems reasonable keeping in view the issues and challenges the country confronted since 2001 marked by the continuing and intensified security challenges coupled by adverse shocks of rise in commodity and oil prices at international level and the unprecedented calamity of the great floods. The government is making policies under adverse situation to stabilise and transform the economy. As soon as the law and order situation improves the country will revert to its potential growth trajectory.

The present government of Pakistan considers the rural areas as the mainstay of national economy and is paying great attention to the development of rural areas. In the past a number of rural development programmes were launched by successive governments mainly focusing on improving social and physical infrastructure, mobilising local resources and motivating the people for productive efforts, by undertaking projects for the provision of basic amenities, and improving the employment opportunities etc. in rural areas.

Pakistan's social indicators have been improving for the last few years, like adult literacy 58%, (urban areas 75% and rural areas 49% while male literacy is 70% and female 47%), life expectancy 66.5 for female and 64.6 for male, nutrition 92% of daily requirement, access to clean water 92% in urban and 88% in rural areas while the coverage of sanitation in rural areas is 58% and 97% in urban areas. The health statistics are also gradually improving due to expansion in the vast network of health caring facilities. Mortality rate is declining and the infant mortality recorded 67.5 per thousand live births in 2013 while the maternal mortality rate is 276 per hundred thousand in 2013. Almost 90% Pakistani women are well informed about the family planning methods, however, the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is not high which is 30% in 2012-13. The total fertility rate (TFR) has exhibited a decline from 3.8 per cent in 2005-06 to 3.4% in 2012.

Being a signatory of MDGs, the government is fully aware of its commitments related to the health sector such as reducing Child Mortality, focusing Maternal Health and combating HIV/AIDs, TB, Malaria and other diseases. The National Health Policy of Pakistan 2009 in conformity with its commitment seeks to improve the health indicators of the country by delivering a set of basic health services for all. Several programmes are underway to improve health care and coverage. An amount of Rs. 20.5 billion was provided in Federal PSDP 2012-13 and there is utilisation of approx. Rs. 2 billion by the end of March 2013.

The government has recognised that nutrition is an important poverty determinant, biological requirement, and a fundamental right of the people. To address and overcome malnutrition problem, an effective multi-sectoral approach has been adopted. An integrated Nutrition Policy Guidance Notes

and Strategic and Operational Planning for Development of a National Nutrition Policy and formulation of plans for five years have been completed. The micronutrient deficiencies are being addressed through food fortification/supplementation and awareness programmes remained in progress mainly through LHW covering more than 60% of population.

The government views education as central to the development strategy of the economy. The government is following the policy of "Education for All" and has launched some major programmes and projects in this regard. Because of the government initiatives, the Net Enrolment Rate (NET) has increased to 57% which includes 60% for male and 54% for female.

The government is aware of the latent potential of agriculture sector to combat poverty and accelerate the pace of development. It is the largest source of employment (45%) in the country and contributes almost 22% to the GDP as well as provides input for agro-based industry. For the last few years agriculture sector has lost significant growth momentum due to natural calamities. The government has initiated a number of programmes with focus on agriculture mechanisation, credit availability and improving the existing irrigation system. The previous government had also launched Benazir Tractor Scheme to deliver 20,000 tractors to the farmers all over the country at subsidised rate of Rs. 200,000/- per beneficiary/ tractor.

In the rural areas, livestock is considered as a more secure source of income for the small farmer's and landless poor. It has become important source of employment generation and is the best hope for poverty alleviation and food security in the rural areas. It contributed almost 55% to the agricultural value added and 12% to the national GDP during 2012-13. The government also encourages the public-private partnership led development by providing enabling environment.

The government allows all the parliamentarians to identify development projects in their particular constituencies for which fund are allocated to each parliamentarian. This program covers implementation of schemes like roads, electricity, gas, telephones, schools, health facilities, water supply and sanitation etc. Reducing poverty has always been the declared goal of all development plans in Pakistan. However the country has made significant progress in human development and poverty reduction over the past few years but there is a general consensus that poverty in Pakistan has increased since 1990s. The Government of Pakistan has taken various initiatives in order to combat poverty which included Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Micro Finance for promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), development through parliamentarian, and Pakistan Baitul Mall.

Pakistan's commitment to reducing poverty in the medium term was first reflected in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) finalised in December 2003 for a period up to 2007-08 while its second phase PRSP-II is under implementation. The overall vision of PRSP-II is to steer Pakistan's economic growth back to the range of 5-7 per cent a year by stimulating growth in the production sector; creating adequate employment opportunities; improving income distribution; and harnessing the country's economic competitiveness through economic liberalisation, deregulation and transparent privatisation. The Government prioritised 17 pro-poor sectors through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) in the PRSP-II. The MTEF provides a link between policy priorities and budget realities. Expenditures incurred in these sectors are in line with the "Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act, 2005" which stipulates that expenditures on social and poverty related spending would not be less than 4.5 per cent of GDP in any given year and that budgetary allocations for health and education would double as a percentage of GDP over the next 10 years ending in 2012-13.

The government also believes in participatory approach for development at grass root level. In this regard the involvement of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is being encouraged to enhance confidence in the people, promote community participation in decision making and implementation of development activities. NGOs especially at grass root level are viewed as an essential tool for accelerating development, despite the fact that Pakistan adapted to the modern concept of NGOs rather late. In order to build up a creative relationship between the local councils and NGOs, efforts are being made to provide durable linkages so that the development process can be predictably synchronised. Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) are

mentionable experiments and are quite well known the world over. However, being area specific and community specific they have limitations and cannot be replicated without providing formal linkages within the democratic system of the country.

The introduction of Local Government System led to the development of various infrastructures at the grass root level which improved the living standard. The provision of electricity, gas, television network and mobile phone communication has largely bridged the gap between the rural and urban Pakistan. Attending to the internally displaced persons from terror zones, and areas of earth quake of 2005 and unprecedented floods of 2010 and 2011 that caused huge damage to life and property particularly agriculture, was a gigantic effort. Effective measures taken by Government greatly helped the population in rural areas to recoil and stand on their feet.

The newly elected Government headed by Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif announced that the Government is committed to the upliftment of youths. He said that a self-reliant and prosperous youth will prove as a vanguard in the nation's journey towards national integrity, prosperity and sovereignty. The Prime Minister revealed that the programme for the country's youth comprising six schemes will be aiming at providing them assistance mainly through affordable education, soft loans and skill-based training. The six programmes are (i) Micro Interest Free Loans Scheme (ii) Small Business Loans Scheme (iii) Youth Training Scheme (iv) Youth Skill Development Scheme (v) Free Assistance Scheme (vi) PM's Scheme for Laptops provision. Pakistan looks forward for the continued guidance and cooperation from CIRDAP and its member countries for undertaking Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation initiatives.

The Philippines

The Philippines manifests its support to the envisioned global partnerships in development through the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 which explains and directs macroeconomic policy, competitive industry and service sectors, competitive and sustainable agriculture and fisheries sector, accelerating infrastructure development, dynamic and resilient financial system, good governance and the rule of law, social development, peace and security, conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the environment and natural resources towards sustainable development.

The Philippines Delegate presented what the country has achieved in the sector and what continues challenging it. The Department of Agrarian Reform took part in the implementation of the bureaucracy-wide rationalisation which is envisioned to improve governance across the country. Amidst the process, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) continues to carry on with its mission, "To lead in the implementation of agrarian reform and sustainable rural development in the country through land tenure improvement, the provision of integrated development services to landless farmers, farm-workers, small landowners, and land owner-cultivators, and the delivery of agrarian justice, as key to long lasting peace and development on the countryside."

The DAR is challenged to complete the acquisition and distribution component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program by 2016 with a net balance of about 694,181 hectares to an estimate of 408,342 beneficiaries. The Philippine Government has a proposed budget of Php 21.3 Billion for 2014. Moreover, to reiterate, as part of the government's commitment to bring progress and effectiveness, "the agriculture bureaucracy is in the process of rationalisation through efficient and effective convergence and complementation of the agriculture, agrarian reform and natural resources [AARNR] service agencies and related offices by taking measures to sort out institutional overlaps" PDP 2011-2016.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an essentially rural and agricultural country. Agricultural and rural development policies, programmes and projects are crucial to the economic growth and development of the economy. An agriculture sector is contributing to regionally equitable economic growth, rural livelihood improvement, and food security through efficient production of commodities for consumption for agro-based industries and for exporting competitively to the world market. As in most of the developing countries, agriculture and rural development is dominating the Sri Lanka economy. About 78 per cent of Sri Lanka's population lives in its rural areas.

Recently, Sri Lanka is at an entrance point of economic growth and development in the result of three decades of war and conflict. The key motto of the current policy document is "Winning the economic war" making it the "Wonder of Asia" that has been commonly used to describe the economic priority in ground of agriculture and rural development in the recent years. The current economic development strategy of Sri Lanka is the "Mahinda Chintana" that expresses the vision to achieve growth rates of above 8 per cent per annum and thereby aim at doubling the current per capita income to reach around US\$ 4000 by year 2016. The document also predicts that Sri Lanka will aim at achieving US\$ 18 billion exports by 2016. With the aim of the "winning the economic war" and the achieving "Wonder of Asia" the government of Sri Lanka has designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the brilliant agricultural and rural development policies, programmes and projects for well being of rural communities. These strategies and policies are basically founded on the vision of the President of the Sri Lanka, that "first you have to build the individual, then the family, then the village and then the country to win the world". Future strategies of the rural development in the country are planned as follow.

- Developing infrastructure facilities that make a direct impact on rural and urban livelihood development
- Sustainable infrastructure development that is essential for income generation of people, economic development and basic human needs.
- Directing the rural masses empowered by livelihood development programmes to the national development
- Creating a healthy and cultured society free of drugs, liquor and smoking and rich in values.
- Providing a shelter for homeless, low income people
- Offering services to all Sri Lankans by opening Samurdhi Banks throughout the island and contributing to the national development. (Ministry of Economic Development- Samurdhi Authority)

Using the past wealth of experiences on agricultural and rural development policies and strategies, the government of Sri Lanka has introduced new set of rural development policies and programmes under the framework of the economic liberalisation. Most of these policies and programmes are support on the following key major development themes:

- Infrastructure development in rural sector
- Livelihood development in the rural communities
- Health, housing and education development in rural sector
- Raise of Production and farmers incomes in rural region
- Environmental protection and development in rural area

As a result, these rural development programmes and projects successfully addressed the issues in thousands of villages in nine Provinces and is ready to further expand. The country has recorded a GDP growth rate of 6% to 8.2 % for the last three years despite the global economic recession. GDP factors indicate a noticeable shift of economic activities away from the urban centers, reflected in a significant drop in rural poverty. The significant socio-economic development and progress promoted the country from Less Developed Country (LDC) to Middle Income Country (MIC) status within a few years despite the devastating domestic terrorism it faced for decades. Many socio-economic achievements qualified Sri Lanka to be upgraded to middle income status by the International Monetary Fund in January 2010. The government has also successfully launched the massive task of rebuilding the livelihoods of the people in the former conflict affected areas and those areas have experienced rapid development, particularly in agriculture, fisheries and tourism. Sri Lanka's tourist intake doubled between 2009 and 2011. Uneven economic growth in the past has left many provinces (except the Western Province) lagging behind in last few years. High growth rate is only in the Western province and it accounts for 45% contribution to GDP and this reflects uneven distribution of employment and income.

Considering that Sri Lanka is still at lower middle-income status that has specific economic, social and environmental challenges to advance further. Promoting development in rural areas is a slow and complex process. It requires simultaneous action in various sectors, in an environment undergoing

rapid, sometimes volatile change. The change comes from internal as well as external processes such as privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation, by forces appearing scattered and different levels. Therefore, the national and international efforts required to address these less clear issues. There are key national level issues and priority areas for rural development in Sri Lanka, such as:

- Some weaknesses in strategy and policy
- Public sector regulatory interventions in commodity and input factor markets,
- Weak delivery of services in rural areas
- Fostering agricultural and rural non-farm growth and competitiveness
- Strengthening water and irrigation resources management
- Promoting more equitable access to assets
- Creating the enabling environment for rural non-farm growth
- Strengthening institutions for the poor and rural livelihood
- Empowerment and rural livelihood

The present trends of challenges and opportunities are not getting clearer in terms of economic, social and political arenas. However, there are few major challenges. Globalisation is a major source of changes in rural development. It is a complex process, consisting of global penetration of finance and markets, information and media, technology and culture, transport and tourism, and even crime. The internationally agreed sustainable consumption and production targets could create more challenges for Sri Lanka.

Climate change is another challenge for rural development. Unexpected weather patterns that trigger droughts and floods could cause damage to food and energy production capabilities. It affects the rural poor more, because they reside in geographically and environmentally marginal environments with poor infrastructure such as roads. Shifts in temperature as well as extreme and erratic weather with floods and droughts affect more drastically their livelihoods, including crop production. Other challenges on rural societies and livelihoods include the effects of non epidemic diseases such as kidney diseases, diabetics etc. and HIV/AIDS, increasing internal conflicts, emerging knowledge of economy with bio-patenting of endogenous and indigenous knowledge, decreasing biodiversity, withdrawal of state, out-migration and aging of rural societies. Emerging animal epidemics, such as the present bird flu also need to be seen as a threat to rural livelihoods rather than just a threat to urban people.

In addition to the role of ICT is a major opportunity to rural livelihoods and poverty reduction. It can play a major role in enhancing the activities of the rural poor and increasing their productivity. It can facilitate access to services and to market information or lower transaction costs of poor farmers and traders. ICT can also play a major role in helping to monitor food security related issues (such as weather, droughts, crop failures, pests), and to inform governments on impending food scarcities and famines. Opportunities for rural organisations come also from increasing democratisation. With increasing political decentralisation, the rise of civil society and increasing relevance of participatory policy processes also come many opportunities to influence development directions at local and global levels; some present trends may also change.

Thailand

Thailand has also attached great importance on the sustainability of its national development programmes. The current Eleventh Economic and Social Development Plan which covers 2012-2015 adopted “the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” of H.M. The King as a policy guiding principle for the country’s overall development in a sustainable manner.

“Sufficiency Economy” is a philosophy that guides the livelihood and behaviour of people at all levels, from the family to the community to the country, on matters concerning national development and administration. It calls for a “middle way” or a “middle path” to be observed, especially in pursuing economic development in keeping with the world of globalisation. Sufficiency means “moderation” and “reasonableness”, including “the need to build a reasonable immune system against shocks from the outside or from the inside”.

The Eleventh National Plan aims at building a knowledgeable and virtuous Thai society and resiliency of the citizens to meet changes. It also focuses on building strong communities to serve as building blocks for the nation and on enhancing people to co-exist happily with the environment to ensure good quality of life and to preserve and protect nature for the future generations.

Along with the development in the country, Thailand also contributed to the development of the region. Thailand collaborated with CIRDAP to organise a workshop (during 16-20 September) which aims to share best practices with CIRDAP Member Countries through the regional workshop project entitled, "Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory". The New Theory is an integrated agriculture which will emphasise on sufficient consumption as priority and the surplus will be sold in the market for earning more income. The New Theory is able to ensure farmers sustainable food security and will improve the livelihood of farmers.

Agenda-6: Any Other Matters

The GC delegate from Bangladesh declared in the presence of the CMC delegates to increase contribution of house rent of CIRDAP staff by the Government of Bangladesh. This was in the context of introducing the housing allowance for General Staff members and enhancing ceiling of house rent for professional staff from the year 2014 as proposed in EC-29 Agenda 13.4 (House Rent for CIRDAP Staff).

The Governing Council (GC-19) highly appreciated the Government of Bangladesh and authorised DG, CIRDAP to formulate the rules to pay the house rent for the staff.

Agenda-7: Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting

The Chairperson invited suggestions for the next date and venue of the EC/GC meetings.

Fiji in its capacity as Vice Chairperson offered to host the next EC/GC meetings in Fiji in 2015. Accordingly, the house unanimously accepted the offer. The exact date of the meeting will be finalised in consultation with CIRDAP Secretariat.

Agenda 8: Adoption of the Report

The Director General, CIRDAP placed the draft report of the GC-19 for adoption. The Chairperson invited comments and suggestions on the draft.

The meeting unanimously adopted Report of the Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council -19

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Chairperson.



CIRDAP presented appreciation awards to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development & Cooperatives Government of Bangladesh and the National FAO Committee, Royal Government of Thailand in the Inauguration of the GC - 19

Research

- Perception and Vulnerability of People Related to Climate Change
- Impact of Handicrafts Skill Development
- Ex-post Evaluation of the Project "Strengthening of Institutional Capabilities and Rural Population for Territorial Development" in Chittagong
- Exposure-cum-Study Visit on Microfinance and Horizontal Learning Programme
- Launching Joint Collaboration with Bangladesh Bank for SME Development in Bangladesh
- Regional Policy Dialogue on Youth in Development
- International Conference on Managing Hazardous Waste

Focused Areas

- Climate Change
- Skill Development
- Youth in Development
- Institutional Capabilities
- Micro Finance
- Collaboration with Donors



Introduction

Reliable information and analysis on multi-dimensional issues, on both the state and the processes of rural development and poverty, are essential to explicitly focus on rural poverty and design effective policies and programmes to overcome the situation.

The research agenda of CIRDAP underwent periodic changes reflecting RD & PA issues of contemporary importance and changes in the dynamics of rural poverty in general, and RD policy shifts and programme thrusts in 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, macro economic policies and poverty alleviation with special focus on women, micro credit, 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 Southeast Asia, rural employment generation, rural governance, and access to land. Recently, CIRDAP initiated a policy dialogue to engage the policy makers in deliberations on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation and address them through regional cooperation among CMCs. The issues have emerged from the regular biennial rural development report of CIRDAP.

Keeping in view the needs and aspiration of the CMCs, the Research Division has implemented 8 projects during the year 2013. A brief review of these research projects is provided below:

Perception and Vulnerability of People Related to Climate Change: A Case Study on Sundarbans Area in Bangladesh



International Seminar on 'Frontiers of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in South Asia'

Director Research a.i. conducted a field survey in Pathorgata District, Bangladesh. The findings of the survey were presented at the International Seminar on 'Frontiers of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in South Asia' organised by the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka in collaboration with Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP-II) of Ministry of Disaster Management and Rehabilitation (MoDMR), Government of Bangladesh on 17th January 2013 at Dhaka University.



Interview with local people, Pathargata, Bangladesh

The Sundarbans plays an important role in the economy of the southwestern region of Bangladesh as well as the national economy. It is the single largest source of forest produce in the country. The forest provides raw materials for wood based industries. In addition to traditional forest produce like timber, fuel-wood, pulpwood etc., large scale harvest of non wood forest products such as thatching materials, honey, bees-wax, fish, crustacean and mollusk resources of the forest takes place regularly.

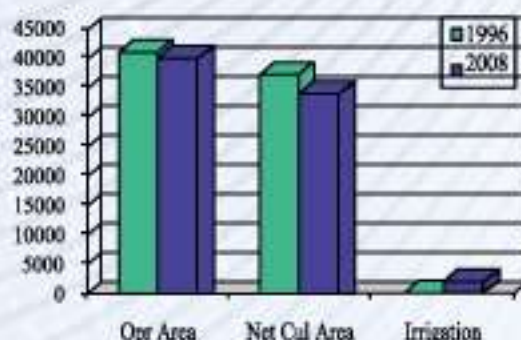
The forest also has immense protective and productive functions. Constituting 51% of the total reserved forest estate of Bangladesh, it contributes about 41% of total forest revenue and accounts for about 45% of all timber and fuel wood output of the country (FAO 1995).

However studies indicated that different types of natural hazards such as floods, droughts, cyclones and storm surges, tidal surges and intrusion of saline water causing salinity, increase of soil salinity and river water salinity, water-logging, tidal flooding, river bank erosion and tornadoes are significantly affecting the agriculture as well as overall socioeconomic development of the country.

The selected villages are somehow homogeneous in nature. South Charduani village has an area of 10.92 sq. km. with an estimated population of about 27,834 comprising of 6524 families living in the village, while Bakultali has a population of 19,281 and total area 14.09 sq. km. It is observed that more than two-fifths of the population of South Charduani is functionally illiterate. On the other hand, the population of Bakultali is more advanced in terms of literacy rate (69%).

The survey observed that agricultural activities are declining in the area due to salinity in terms of both operative and net cultivation areas. In 2008 the net operative area was 40,000 acres which had reduced from 42,000 acres (Figure 1). Similar trends are observed in terms of net cultivated area.

Figure 1: Comparing the Operation, Net and Irrigation Cultivated Area



The highest cropping intensity of 200% was observed for the urban areas where some areas were cultivated for production of high yielding varieties during Boro season with irrigation facilities available, whereas the cropping intensity of the study areas is 146%.

The inhabitants in the area felt that any kind of organisational interventions/support is needed for them to reduce climate change vulnerabilities. They suggested that government and NGOs working at the community level should address the water salinity in a concerted manner.

Conclusions

Some of the warning signs of the adverse effects of climate change such as sea level rise, water logging, siltation and seawater intrusion are already visible in the study villages. Villagers are affected by the climate change. The villagers themselves understand the climate change impact in their livelihood and understand the climate change by their own experiences, but they are not much aware of the reasons be

Recommendations

- Capacity Building of Vulnerable people are much required mostly on the reasons of climate changes
- They have to be trained on the main reasons contributing to climate change in their context.
- GOs and NGOs should be more active in the region, mostly on participatory approach.
- New varieties of crops which are resilient to saline water and soil have to be introduced to the farmers.
- It is required that alternative livelihoods, instead of exploiting the Sundarbans, have to be adopted in the coastal areas of Sundarban.

Research Project on Impact of Handicrafts Skill Development Training on Rural Women's Livelihoods Initiated in 2013

CIRDAP Research Division in collaboration with the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDGD) of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD & C) of the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh has initiated an Action Research Project titled "Impact of Handicrafts Skill Development Training on Rural Women" in Jujkhola Village of Pirojpur District, a Southern Coastal Region in Bangladesh. Under the



Katha sewing group, Pirojpur

project a 12 days' Training on Hand Embroidery for 30 participants and 10 days' training on Khantha sewing for 25 participants were organised from the 15 April to 27 April 2013. Dr. Mihir Kanthi Mazumder, Former Secretary, RDGD along with Director Research a.i. launched the project on 15 April 2013.

The main objective of the project was to observe the changing pattern of livelihoods through skills development training with low level of capital, technology, infrastructure and raw materials. After observing the effect for three months, CIRDAP will analyse the impacts and expect to expand the project in a larger scale.

During the training period it was found that some of the participants from both the groups performed very well, and that there was a need for more support for the slow learners. In order to provide assistance to the slow learners and to engage the early learners in production groups to facilitate their income generation, the respective Trainers were sent for a follow-up visit at Jujkhola from 20 to 22 June 2013. During the visit, they formed Production Groups consisting of 16 members from the 30 who received training on Hand Embroidery and 11 members out of 25 on Kantha Sewing group.

During the visit, the trainers provided further instructions to the slower learners to enhance their skills to be included in the production groups in the future, and handed over materials/inputs for production which they submitted to the Parul Garden for Marketing by 20 July 2013.

Conducting an Ex-post Evaluation of the Project “Strengthening of Institutional Capabilities and Rural Population for Territorial Development” in Chittagong Division of Bangladesh



Focus Group Discussion with project beneficiaries

Fundación ETEA, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and Noakhali Rural Development Society (NRDS) implemented a project “Strengthening of Institutional Capabilities and Rural Population for Territorial Development in Chittagong” during October 2010 to October 2012 in two selected Unions, namely South Khoshbash Union of Borora Upazila under Comilla District and Ewazhalia Union of Maizdi Sadar Upazila

Under Noakhali District funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID). The main purpose of the project was to strengthen the institutional capacities of local people, contribute to the socioeconomic development and reduce poverty from a gender perspective.

CIRDAP has been commissioned to evaluate the impact of the project implemented at Comilla and Noakhali districts of Chittagong Division. An agreement was signed by both parties, CIRDAP and ETEA, Spain for the evaluation. CIRDAP initiated the evaluation activities on 20 May 2013.

This project was set within a longer action programme of ETEA Foundation in Bangladesh, whose ultimate goal was promoting the development of rural areas and strengthening the decentralisation process. Therefore, the project was implemented in the lowest administrative levels i.e. Union Parishad-the organisational structure of the country. The essential component of the project was capacity building of local authorities in the area to enhance their performance.

The objective of the evaluation was to obtain results to enhance the lessons learnt, enhance the management, and ensure the transparency of the present and future actions. The evaluation team used a non exhaustive number of general questions and criteria to develop the evaluation performance. The criteria followed are: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, viability, coherence, and ownership.

The questions were developed to be asked to three stakeholders (e.g. implementing organisations; Local Government Officials and Beneficiaries groups). Field level data has already been collected.

Exposure - cum - Study Visit on Microfinance and Horizontal Learning Programme in Bangladesh by the Officials of Iran

CIRDAP in collaboration with Government of Iran organised an exposure-cum-study visit in Bangladesh for four (one from the ministry and three from provincial level) senior Iranian officials of Nomads and Rural Women Development Bureau, Ministry of Jihad-e- Agriculture from the 2-9 April 2013. The main purpose of the exposure visit was to get hands-on experience on microfinance and Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) in Bangladesh. The visit programme which was prepared by the research division, CIRDAP exclusively focused on exposure of participants to the individual/group activities of microcredit at the grassroots level for learning and exchanging views/ideas and information along with the monitoring and functional aspects of horizontal learning programme (HLP) practices. These include briefing and interaction with the beneficiaries as well as government/non-government



Delegates' visit to Kalania Village beneficiaries of Micro Credit

organisations regarding details of operations. The officials had HQ visits where professionals from PKSF, World Bank, Grameen Bank, Horizontal learning Centre (HLC), and Ministry of local government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh briefed the delegates about the microcredit and HLP operation in Bangladesh.

To gain proper insight on the accurate functional features of microfinance, HLP and information communication, the participants attended field visits on various microcredit and HLP beneficiary sites to allow them to gain first hand experience on the processes. The team left for Iran on the 10 April 2013.

MOU Signed with Bangladesh Bank

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between CIRDAP and SME & Special Programmes Department (SMESPD) of Bangladesh Bank (BB) on 13 May 2013 in pursuit of the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) in Bangladesh. Considering the significant role in the development of the economy by creating employment opportunities for the rural poor, Bangladesh Bank has been working to promote the MSME. They are now trying to develop an inclusive approach to bring all stakeholders to work together and obtain the benefit from this sector. In order to gather relevant knowledge from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCS) like Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, and Thailand in this region that have already put a step ahead in this sector, CIRDAP being a regional window, based in Bangladesh could make sincere assistance to BB in this regard.



MoU signed with Bangladesh Bank

It is expected that through this collaboration BB and CIRDAP will:

- Support in preparing SME policy and strategy;
- Arrange and organise stakeholders' dialogue;
- Organise national conference/seminar;
- Organise exposure-cum-study visit to selected CMCs;
- Organise International/ Regional Conferences;
- Undertake policy oriented research/study to share policy issues of successful CMCs on MSME;
- Organise training programmes on applied/ appropriate technology, exchange experts on MSME;
- Organise TOT by bringing expert from CMCs to Bangladesh;
- Promote women and young entrepreneurs;
- Organise International Exhibition on Micro, Medium and Small Enterprise (MSME) in Bangladesh through identifying foreign counterparts in selected CMCs.

Launching Joint Collaboration with Bangladesh Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises Development in Bangladesh

As a follow-up of the MOU signed between Bangladesh Bank (BB) and CIRDAP on 13 May 2013, Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Atiur Rahman and CIRDAP Director General Dr. Cecep Effendi jointly initiated a seminar at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre in the capital city of Dhaka.

The Governor expressed hope that "With this MoU, entrepreneurs, policymakers and other stakeholders related to SME sector of Bangladesh will be able to share and upgrade their knowledge with the counterparts of CIRDAP Member Countries." Citing some major initiatives of the central bank to propel the growth of the country's SMEs sector, he said joint initiatives both nationally and internationally are very important for SME development, and we are committed to continue such initiatives.

Emphasising the need for local, regional and global initiatives for SME promotion and development, he said there is ample scope for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation and support between SME policymakers and stakeholders of the CIRDAP Member Countries through different programmes including exhibitions, fairs, conferences and workshops.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Cecep Effendi termed the partnership between BB and CIRDAP as a timely effort, which would drive SME initiatives forward regionally and globally. He hoped that the member-countries of the Dhaka-based organisation would exchange knowledge and experience for promoting SMEs and eventually the growth of individual country.

Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Iwan H.S. Wiranataatmadia and President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce (DCCI), Md. Sabur Khan also addressed the programme. Hossein Shahbaz, a.i Director Research of CIRDAP, gave vote of thanks at the programme.



DG, CIRDAP presenting some SME agro-products of Indonesia to Bangladesh Bank Governor

Regional Policy Dialogue on Youth in Development



Presentation by Afghan delegate in 6th Regional Policy Dialogue

The Sixth Regional Policy Dialogue on the theme "Youth in Development" was organised at Hotel Oberoi in New Delhi, India on 29 September 2013 coinciding with the Twenty Ninth Executive Committee and the Nineteenth Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP. The purpose of holding the Regional Policy Dialogue was to engage the policy bodies of CIRDAP in deliberations on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation and addressing them through regional cooperation among CIRDAP

Member Countries (CMCs). The dialogue was organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The objective of this dialogue was to disseminate the study findings on Youth in Development in CMCs conducted during 2012-2013 biennium following the suggestion of the 27th CIRDAP Technical Committee held in Sri Lanka in 2012. There were five country presentations by respective country experts examining different dimensions of youth development policies while seven presentations were made by the local NGOs of India showcasing best practices in India.

The policy dialogue was attended by the policy makers from 15 CMCs. High-level delegations of the CIRDAP Policy makers were comprised of H.E.s the Ministers and Secretaries of line Ministries in CMCs who came to attend the regular meetings of CIRDAP Policy Body (Executive Committee/Governing Council) in India. Other distinguished participants and guests included, among others, representatives of UN Organisations – Donor Community, Specialised Agencies, International Organisations, GOs/NGOs/INGOs, academicians, researchers, and select members of Civil Society participated in the Policy Dialogue. The opening ceremony was officiated by H.E. Shri Pradeep Jain, State Minister of Rural Development, Government of India as Chief Guest who also chaired the Dialogue. Mr. Vijay Kumar IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Chairperson EC-29 introduced the Chief Guest to the Audience. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP made introductory remarks at the Inaugural Session.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest emphasised the need for investments on youth from the government and the development partners as well. The ascendance of youth issues to national priorities has primarily emerged from the realisation of the large number of young people in the country and due to what is called the 'youth bulge' and its potential implications. He also mentioned that population growth rate and size has been a matter of serious concern for centuries. Over 60 per cent of the world's youth live in the Asia-Pacific region where more than 750 million young women and men belong to age group 15 to 24 years.

He underscored the need for partnership building and the participation of the broadest sectors of society, including civil society groups, the private sector, and local government units to enhance the accountability and sense of responsibility of both programme implementers and beneficiaries in ensuring the success of any programme, since the section deeply affects development opportunities and plays a major role in security risks and governance challenges.

The Chief Guest termed the CIRDAP initiative as unique in many ways. He noted that the Youth Development Programme is being pursued.

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP welcomed the delegates and emphasised to take advantage of the unique organisational structure of CIRDAP in order to engage them in deliberations on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation and addressing them through regional cooperation among CMCs. He briefly explained the rationale and the objectives of the dialogue and its broad concerns. Dr. Effendi urged the Member Countries to come forward to help CIRDAP in organising this type of policy dialogue in the future too.

In the Policy Dialogue, following papers were presented:

- Afghanistan National Youth Policy
- Youth in Development in Bangladesh
- Best Practices in Engaging Youth in Rural Development in Fiji - A Country Paper on the Fijian Experience
- Youth Development through Skill and Placement Approach of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
- Rural Business Challenge in Malaysia
- Youth in Development in Sri Lanka
- Reducing Poverty through Rejuvenating Farm Livelihoods: Creating New Opportunities for Rural Youths

The presentations were followed by questions and answers by the distinguished delegates. The closing remarks were presented by the Director General, CIRDAP.

Dr. D. Agochia, International Expert and Consultant on Youth, CIRDAP shared the CMCs' policies on Youth Development in the dialogue. Dr. Agochia, while referring the converging national youth policy of Bangladesh, Fiji and India emphasised on the coordination and cooperation among the different stakeholders who are involved with youth development. This may include GO, NGOs/INGOs, development agencies and private sectors.

Dr. D. Agochia specifically emphasised on four dimensions on youth and rural development which are:

- a. The programme should not only include youth as beneficiaries but also converge youths as components of development. He cited the National Youth Policy in Sri Lanka where youth are involved in the development process;
- b. Youth to youth interaction must be encouraged;
- c. Peer to peer sharing on best practices must be promoted; and
- d. Young people must participate in the development process.



Participants as well as discussants of 6th Regional Policy Dialogue

issues like policy and decentralisation livelihoods. The Chairperson suggested CIRDAP to come up with an idea of what CIRDAP wants from the member countries.

The Chairperson of the session, while wrapping up, mentioned that the youth should not only be counted as recipients, rather should be included as key stakeholders in the process of large area development. This will ensure sustainable youth policies and strategies. Voluntarism should be encouraged as it is more dignified rather than being only beneficiaries. The Chairperson specifically mentioned that the Rural Business Challenge (RBC) of Malaysia, which may generate a lot of interest on formulation on

Director General, CIRDAP in his concluding remarks mentioned that CIRDAP may act as a forum to share best practices/success stories of CMCs, referring to the best practices of the countries like Thailand's marketing and food industry, Vietnam's land zoning system and building rural infrastructure where young people may be involved to provide them opportunity.

In the afternoon the session on showcasing India's best practices in Rural Development was held in which the following presentations were made:

- Towards a Poverty Free Andhra Pradesh: A New Paradigm of Development
- India's Dairy Development Experience
- State Poverty Alleviation Programme with a Difference Towards Deepening Democracy: Kudumbhasree Mission in Kerala
- "Livelihood Advancement Business School by" Dr. Reddy's Foundation
- "India's Rural Development Report 2013" by IDFC
- Presentation by Sir Ratan Tata and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust

International Conference on Managing Hazardous Waste

The SR Asia Second International Conference on "Responsible Business Conduct to Safeguard the People's Issues and Environment by Managing Hazardous Waste" was held in CIRDAP International Conference Centre jointly by CIRDAP and the Bangladesh Bank Training Academy from 29-30 November. Other partners include GIZ, Swisscontact, APO, IPLA, E&Y, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. and a few others. CIRDAP presented a paper titled "Status of Integrated Waste Management in CIRDAP



DG, CIRDAP giving a speech in the conference

Member Countries." The conference was held in the hopes of providing a platform to share, discuss and deliberate on the challenges and opportunities that developing countries face in the context of waste management. Discussions included: solutions and motivations for going green and zero waste generation, trends and perspectives on green banking in Bangladesh, health and safety of workers and legislative on industry development to support technology adoption and resource recovery.

In the conference, there were 14 presentations made by various experts of Government, NGOs and INGOs on six themes from home and abroad. The themes selected for this year's Conference were: (i) Green Banking-Bangladesh Bank's Initiatives, promotion of CSR and the environmental aspect; (ii) Legislative framework on hazardous waste management and linkage to responsible business conduct; standardisation of the roadmap to support industry waste regulation; (iii) Exporting to Europe by eliminating hazardous material and CSR focus; (iv) Theory and practice in managing waste impacting environment, people and profit; (v) Risks and Resolve of Solid Waste Management in Urban and Rural Areas; and (vi) Promotion of public-private-community partnership in managing waste.

CIRDAP's presentation was on "Status of Integrated Waste Management in CIRDAP Member Countries" under the theme "Risks and Resolve of Solid Waste Management in Urban and Rural Areas". The CIRDAP paper dealt with the present status of solid waste management in the selected countries.

Other Activities Coordinated by the Division

Organised visit of Project Director of SHARIQUE, HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation, Dhaka



International Conference on Managing Hazardous Waste

Bangladesh administration) to operate in an accountable, transparent, socially inclusive and effective manner. The project is active both on the supply side-building the capacities of local governance structures, particularly Union Parishads; and on the demand side – supporting citizens to know their rights and have the confidence to demand them. She noticed that SHARIQUE operates at a far smaller scale covering 4% of the population but in a more intensive and 'hands on' manner aiming to be innovative in supporting participatory processes. Ms. Lilia sought cooperation to strengthen the

Ms. Lilia Tverdun, Director, Local Governance Programme SHARIQUE, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Dhaka, Bangladesh visited CIRDAP on 11 February 2013 to discuss issues on mutual interests for further collaboration. HELVETAS, like CIRDAP, is the member of Horizontal Learning Programme Group in Bangladesh. Ms. Lilia gave a brief presentation on the SHARIQUE activities in Bangladesh. In her presentation, she mentioned that the project SHARIQUE has been in operation since 2006, seeking to build the capacities and competencies of Union Parishads (The lowest level of

research component of SHARIQUE. From the CIRDAP side, a brief presentation was made on the activities of decentralisation.

Director General, CIRDAP expressed his hope while welcoming the guest that CIRDAP as a regional organisation, seeks cooperation from all national and international organisations for the cause of the rural people in region.

ETEA Foundation Team Visited CIRDAP

Mr. Lorenzo E. Mohedano, Project Manager, and Dr. Melania Salazar Ordonez of ETEA Foundation, Spain visited Bangladesh during 17-21 of February 2013. They visited CIRDAP on 17 February and discussed about mutual interests. Director ICD received the delegates and discussed about the future collaboration with them. ETEA Foundation, in collaboration with CIRDAP Link Institute in Bangladesh namely Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and also Noakhali Rural Development Society (NRDS) implemented the project "Strengthening of Institutional Capabilities and Rural Population for Territorial Development in Chittagong" financed by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID). The main purpose of the project was to strengthen the institutional capacities of local people, contributing to the socioeconomic development and poverty reduction from a gender perspective in South Khosbash and Ewazbalia Unions of Chittagong Division. ETEA proposed to collaborate with research division to evaluate the project mentioned above. Research Division, CIRDAP will be an external evaluator for the project in both areas.



Pilot Projects

- Improving Grain Storage at Household Level for Food Security in Rural Areas
- Exposure Study on Interventions of Integrated Programmes by BRAC
- Management of Fishing Ports in Partnership with Local Communities
- Biogas Energy for Community Development
- Visit to Action Research Projects for Delegate from Lao PDR
- Exchange of Good Practices among CMCs

Focused Areas

- Food Security
- Community Development
- Community Level Best Practices on RD & PA
- Renewable Energy
- Partnership with Fishing Community
- Small & Medium Enterprise
- Networking and Collaboration with CMCs
- Strengthening Relationship with Development Partners



The initial project ideas of CIRDAP's action research/pilot projects emanated in October 1981 from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and in the subsequent discussions with the Government of Japan. It was then recommended in September 1982 that CIRDAP programming should be more focused towards action oriented activities benefiting the rural population at the grassroots level. 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 are basically designed to conduct at the field level with people's participation based on participatory methodology in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs).

The major project activities conducted during 2013 are as follows:

Improving Grain Storage at Household Level for Food Security in Rural Areas

A regional workshop on 'Improving Grain Storage at Household Level for Food Security in Rural Areas' was organised by PPD, CIRDAP at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), Dhaka on 2 April 2013. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Honourable Minister of Food, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop. Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumdar, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDGD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Bangladesh were the Special Guests.



Mr. Mahammad Abdur Razzaque, Minister of Food, GoB, inaugurated the workshop

The regional workshop was attended by senior government officials, development partners, academicians, researchers, Rural Development practitioners, and CIRDAP professionals. A total of 10 papers were received for this workshop (including the key note paper and two papers each from Lao PDR and India).

1. Key Note Paper: 'Organic Storage Systems: A Means of Food Security by Reducing Storage Losses of Agricultural Seeds & Grains'
By: Md. Shahjahan Ali, Former Government Officer, Ministry of Industries, GoB
2. 'Ensuring Food Security with Effective Use of Hermetic Technology'
By: Mr. Murshed Salam, Grain Pro. Inc. Bangladesh
3. 'Reducing Post-Harvest Losses of Rice by Using Hermetically Sealed Storage Bags'
By: Debashish Chanda, M. A. Saleque, M. A. Rahman and B. C. Nath

4. 'An Overview of Rice Storage Scenario at Household Level In Bangladesh'
By: Dr. M. A. Rahman, Principal Scientific Officer and Head, Farm Machinery and Postharvest Technology Division, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
5. 'Reducing Postharvest Losses by Using Hermetically Sealed Storage Bags'
By: Debashish Chanda, PhD, Sr. Specialist- Postharvest & Business Model Development, IRRI
6. 'Role of BADC in Providing Quality Seeds for Ensuring Food Security in the Country'
By: Dr. Md. Shafayet Hossain, Deputy Manager (Seed Processing & Preservation Div.), Bangladesh Agriculture Development Cooperation (BADC)
7. 'An Overview of Rice Storage Scenario at Household Level in Bangladesh'
By: M. A. Rahman, S. Paul, B. C. Nath and A. K. M. S. Islam
8. 'Effect of Hermetic Storage Device and Local Bio-Insecticide on Wheat Seed Quality In Faridpur and Gopalganj Districts'
By: Dr. Tim Krupnik, CIMMYT-Bangladesh
9. 'Grain Storage at Household Level for Food Security in Char Areas of Bangladesh: Rural Development Academy (RDA) Experiences'
By: M. A. Matin and A. K. M. Zakaria, RDA, Bogra
10. 'Storage at Local Level by Seed Promotion Programme'
By: Mahbubul Islam, Policy Development Advisor, CCDB

During this workshop, the keynote paper entitled, 'Organic Storage Systems: A means of Food Security by Reducing Storage Losses of Agricultural Seeds & Grains' mentioned that Bangladesh has made steady progress in the expansion of food production. But because of the increasing population pressure there has been an extensive use of land to meet the growing demand for food. However, the paper also mentioned that post-harvest loss is collective food loss all along the production chain, from harvest and handling, to storage and processing, to packing and transportation. One problem is that while innovators, researchers and technologists have been successful in developing innovations in drying and storage, these innovations are often not adopted by small farmers.

The Honourable Chief Guest, Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh is dedicated to promoting food security, providing necessary assistance and support of food and relief to the vulnerable groups of people. Though considerable priority has been given to the production sector, relatively little priority has been given to the post-production sector. Post-harvest management including grain storage system of household level in Bangladesh, like in most developing countries of the region, is far from satisfactory. Post-harvest management, mostly grain storage in the household level is pivotal in an agricultural country such as Bangladesh. At the end, Honourable Chief Guest thanked all the participants/experts both locally, and from abroad such as Lao PDR. He also, praised CIRDAP for organising this noteworthy regional workshop.

The regional workshop was attended by senior government officials, development partners, academicians, researchers, Rural Development practitioners, and CIRDAP professionals. A total of nine papers were received for this workshop (including the key note paper and one paper each from Lao PDR and India).

Md. Shahjahan Ali, former Government Officer, Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper titled, 'Organic Storage Systems: A Means of Food Security by Reducing Storage Losses of Agricultural Seeds & Grains' in the Inaugural Session. Mr. Shahjahan Ali focused on food production, acquisition, land improvement and development of organic storage systems. In the presentation, he also mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh had identified food security as an important factor contributing to socio-economic stabilisation of the country.

Exchange of Good Practices among CMCs

Dissemination of Horizontal Learning Process (HLP) in Pakistan



Session on HLP

Director General, CIRDAP. A total of 36 participants participated, which included some provisional level staff members who deal with local government. After the workshop, participants were awarded certificates as a token of recognition. During the workshop an interactive Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/HorizontalLearningProgramme?fref=ts>) was created where the HLP participants could put their comments and postings on HLP issues. After organising the workshop, DG, NCRD set up a HLP desk in the NCRD campus to continue the HLP in Pakistan and also to monitor HLP activities by other institutes, as well as collect the fact sheets from participants and make final for sharing with other CMCs via CIRDAP.

In the last day of the workshop, three participants who were very active and interested in the HLP to be replicated in the local level were elected by the workshop group (participants) for:

- Coordinating with other Participants and CIRDAP to finalise fact sheets;
- Assisting NCRD to set up a HLP desk for operationalisation of HLP in Pakistan;
- Assisting CIRDAP in the next immediate workshop in other country as Co-facilitator.

In fact, the workshop participants developed 10 fact sheets on HLP which were sent to CIRDAP later. CIRDAP printed all 10 Fact Sheets and distributed during EC-29 and GC-19. Also, they were uploaded in CIRDAP website for public access.

The main objectives of the HLP programme were: a) To share the best practice of Bangladesh to CLI officials and RD practitioners of Pakistan to familiarise with the policy framework and programmes; b) To identify the approach for possible adaptation and replication; c) To discuss the concept, process and approaches of the Horizontal Learning in the connection of RD and PA activities; and d) To develop a work plan for their organisations/regions. The Outputs of HLP are: a) Deeper understanding of complexities of Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP) in the region; b) Knowledge-sharing of best practices in social and rural development in the context of the host country; c) Engagement of the provincial and field officers with HLP to replicate it in the grass root level; and d) Collective assessment of the potential benefits and challenges of promoting the processes entailed in HLP.

Horizontal Learning Process (HLP) Workshop in India

A three-day orientation workshop on Horizontal Learning Process (HLP) was organised from April 19-21, 2013 at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumdur, Tamil Nadu. Mr. Shantanu Lahiri, Consultant World Bank was a resource person of this orientation along with Ms. Veena Mahor and Ms. Shresta Roy from Kutch Navnirmanabhiyab, Bhuj. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director ICD was the coordinator from CIRDAP and Dr. Gopinath was from RGNIYD.

The HLP orientation programme was inaugurated by Director General RGNIYD, Mr. Michel Veda Siromany. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Siromany highlighted the fact that RGNIYD and CIRDAP

have signed a MoU to work together for promoting issues related to development of rural youth within India and in the Asia Pacific region. He expressed his appreciation for CIRDAP which has taken the initiative to share a best practice of Bangladesh i.e. HLP which is being successfully implemented by World Bank and 32 other development partners.



Training in progress

HLP is based on peer learning, she expressed that CIRDAP has more expectations on the outcome of such initiative involving the youth.

Mr. Lahiri explained the HLP and conducted the workshop for 3 days with assistance from Dr. Vasanthi, Mr. T. Gopi Nath, Ms. Veena Mahor and Ms. Sreatha Roy from Kutch Navnirmanabhiyab, Bhuj.

There was a total number of 40 participants of whom, 10 were female and 30 male. They comprised of Govt. officials i.e. District Youth Coordinators (DYC), local govt. leaders and NGOs working for youth development. At the end of the workshop, 2 groups were formed viz. Govt. officials with DYCs from Tirunelveli, Pondicherry and Vellore, NGOs and Youth Groups who have some good practices on which fact sheets would be prepared.

Local Level Best Practices on Horizontal Learning Process in Vietnam

Sharing the good practices of any CMCs with other CMCs is one of the main mandates of CIRDAP. In this concern, new management of the centre has already decided to share one of the good practices of government of Bangladesh, namely Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP) with other member countries. So, during 10-13 June 2013, Pilot Projects Division conducted a workshop on Horizontal Learning Process in Collaboration with the College of Management Training in Agriculture and Rural



Participants of the HLP workshop in Vietnam

Development-I (CMARD-I) and International Cooperation Department (CIRDAP Link Institute), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Socialist Republic of Vietnam. There were 25 young participants from different organisations under MARD.

During the workshop, participants shared 15 good practices on Agriculture and Rural Development, of which 8 of them were selected by participants as being best practices, like modifying the grass cutter machine to paddy cutter, productive bee raising in newly designed hives, bio-insecticide in fish culture ponds, forming cooperatives for small farm holders and suitable water filter from rural areas. The

workshop was coordinated by two resource persons i.e. Mr. Santanu Lahiri, HLP working team coordinator and Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director of Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP.

Community Level Best Practices in Fiji

Other than Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam, PPD, CIRDAP organised a workshop on Horizontal Learning Process during 25-29 November 2013, in Fiji Island in collaboration with Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and Disaster Management (MRDMDDM), Government of Fiji as contact ministry of CIRDAP. A total of 30 participants from different ministries i.e. Ministry of Health, MRDMDDM and also some NGOs attended the workshops.

HLP is mostly the concept where "Everyone is an expert in something and Horizontal Learning realises that expertise" which is implemented by the local government of Bangladesh. CIRDAP is sharing this programme as good practice of its host state with other member countries. After the 3-day indoor workshop there were two field visits to two villages namely Nakalawaca and Naganivatu for visiting two piloted project on Household Eco-Sanitation.



Group photo with the Chief Guest, Honourable Minister

The inauguration of the workshop was graced by the Chief Guest, Honourable Minister of MRDMDDM, Fiji. Mr. Mark Ellery, Water and Sanitation Programme, World Bank, Bangladesh and Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director, Pilot Project Division, CIRDAP and distinguished guests and participants were present at the inauguration. The Honourable Chief Guest expressed his pleasure at being present at the opening of the first ever Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP) to be held in Fiji, aimed at sharing water and sanitation best practices from all parts of the world.

The continued development of the water and sanitation sector remains a top priority for many countries, including Fiji, and it is reassuring to be able to observe the level of support that the Fiji Government enjoys from civil societies, the private sector and the Development Partners. At the outset, H.E. expressed his appreciation to the CIRDAP and the World Bank for partnering with Fiji in facilitating this workshop.

Festival on Good Practices Selection in I.R. Iran

PPD, CIRDAP conducted workshop on Sharing Experiences on Horizontal Learning Program (HLP), Bangladesh from 26 - 29 November 2012 in Iran, with the assistance of Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), CIRDAP Link Institute under Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture (MOJA), I.R. Iran. Apart from best practices on local government of Bangladesh, there were lectures on Iranian experiences on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Farmer's Field School (FFS) in connection with Horizontal Learning Program (HLP). One of the participants of the workshop, Dr Abbas Noorzaee, a high official from Jihad-e-Agriculture Organisation, provincial wing of MOJA, in Sistan and Baluchistan Province has shared and conducted HLP workshops in the province. Jihad-e-Agriculture Organisation organised "The First Festival and Technology Exhibition of Good Practices Selection" in connection with HLP on 25 June 2013 as follow-up the workshop organised by CIRDAP. CIRDAP was one of the partners of this festival. The Good Practices Selection was based on the topics like: cultivation, gardening, pest & disease control, agriculture mechanism, agriculture mechanism, water & soil, agriculture association, crops & rural industry, natural resources & water bed, environment, IT in agriculture, sustainable agriculture,

agricultural exercise & rural development, agricultural management, food industry, livestock, fishery, technical & engineering and agricultural services. Dr Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP sent a message to the festival. His message is put in the Jihad-e-Agriculture Organisation's website (<http://www.sb-agrijahad.ir/portal/home/>)

Exposure Study on Interventions of Integrated Programmes by BRAC

PPD organised an exposure study for Dr. Mohammad Reza Ashgari, DG, International Affairs and Specialised Organisations Bureau, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, I.R. Iran who made a visit to Korail urban slum in Mohakali/Banani under Dhaka district on 10 March 2013. He was keen to see various rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, using participatory methodology like that of BRAC, one of the largest NGOs of Bangladesh, during his visit to CIRDAP, Bangladesh.



BRAC's non-formal primary school

During this visit he observed the microfinance operation, spoke to borrowers and visited micro-enterprises, a non-formal primary school and a Delivery Centre where BRAC provides maternal and neonatal services to women. He also visited BRAC headquarters to attend a video presentation on BRAC's activities. Korail is one of the largest slums in Bangladesh and is located just opposite the BRAC Head Office in Dhaka. Most of the people who live in Korail slum have moved to the city from some of the poorest parts of Bangladesh such as Jamalpur and Kishorganj. Korail covers an area of around 100 acres and is home to almost 30,000 residents.

Microfinance programme borrowers, most of whom are women, use the loans to engage in various income generating activities to build a livelihood for themselves and for their families. BRAC brings collateral free credit and savings services to the doorsteps of the landless poor.

It was very interesting for the visitor to see non-formal primary education programme, which provided a second chance to children who dropped out from a formal school system or never enrolled. The pre-primary school programme is to prepare underprivileged children for mainstream primary school entry.

Dr. Asghari showed a keen interest in BRAC's Health Programme, which promotes a broad concept of health among disadvantaged communities through a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services. Healthcare interventions have been an integral aspect of BRAC's holistic approach to development. In view of this integrated programme activities, he opined that it would be useful to share the same experiences with his colleagues to replicate some of the same interventions in I.R. Iran.

Action Research Projects Visited by Delegate from Lao PDR

CIRDAP arranged an exposure study visit of best practices on rural development and poverty alleviation through various agricultural activities for Dr. Chay Bounphanouxay, Director of Agriculture Research Institution, Lao PDR. In the programme CIRDAP arranged various field visits to see different models of action research/pilot projects. This included many field visits to different institutions, research centers and also many technical meetings. Some of the salient features were:

Seed Enterprise

An exposure visit was arranged with CCDB (an NGO) for Dr. Chay, so that she could see seed activities in Shibaloy, Manikganj in consultation with Mahbubul Islam, Development Policy Advisor. During the visit the rural women were found to be energetic and very enthusiastic and happy to be engaging themselves to be the representatives of the community in CCDB's effort on the seed programme. Dr.

Chay was impressed and appreciated that CCDB made this initiative to introduce its own brand of seeds by using poor rural women.

Rural Development Academy

Dr. Chay also visited Rural Development Academy (RDA) in Bogra, Bangladesh. CIRDAP proposed that RDA and Agriculture Research Institution, Lao PDR may take the initiative to identify the areas of mutual cooperation on sharing the best practices on rural development and poverty alleviation of Bangladesh to Lao PDR and vice-versa through a memorandum of understanding.

There was also a video presentation on RDA faculty strengths and various activities with a special focus on low-cost deep tube well models and Mobile Plant Clinic and Agriculture demonstration project for Dr. Chay.

Rural Plant Clinic

Dr. Chay had a chance to be exposed to the Rural Plant Clinic at Radhanagar where they interacted with Aungmyara Begum, Crop Doctor and Union Parishad Member, who was assisted by Mahmuda Begum, Sister of Crops clinic. Many farmers of the locality often come to see the plant doctor and get their damaged crops and vegetables prescribed, that are damaged by diseases. The doctors keep a reference book on plant treatment, and the objective of the Rural Plant Clinic is to develop a community owned rural plant clinic model for Bangladesh. Three Rural Plant Clinics (RPC) have been set up in a Union named Amrool



A rural plant clinic

on an experimental basis. Each of the RPC is providing plant health service to the farmers of the surrounding 6-8 villages. The clinics are being set up in the premises of elected women members of the Union Parishad who had undergone an intensive training on how to organise, run and maintain simple but effective community run Plant Clinics. RPCs are providing written prescription to the farmers for solving their plant health problems. After a considerable period, a nominal fee will be charged to run the clinics in a self-sustainable manner. Initially, RDA is providing technical back-up including regular training, monitoring, manual development, promotional activity, and finally, RDA intends to establish linkages between RPCs and national plant protection labs.

Women in Seed Entrepreneurship (WISE)



Dr. Chay with women trainees from WISE Group in Chingaspur village, Bogra

Dr. Chay shared that women of Lao PDR were also involved in agriculture as well as seed production, but they did not have access to this kind of training. She interviewed some old WISE members about their seed production and maintenance of seed quality.

She was delighted to see the smiling faces of the rural women who had contributed a lot to the national GDP of Bangladesh through seed production and marketing.

She was surprised that the rural illiterate women could easily produce quality seed after receiving training. She commented that it was an excellent replicable model throughout the world, where similar

socio economic conditions prevailed to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural women and to

empower them – which also helps in food security. She hoped to replicate this business model from Rural Development Academy in Lao PDR.

Alternative Energy: Biogas Project

Action research RDA has developed a new model named Community Biogas Model (capacity of 100-150 m³ digester), aiming to deal with emerging energy crises in the country.

This model can solve the energy crisis for the rural areas of Bangladesh. Dr. Chay was very interested about it. From its earliest beginnings some people used personal biogas plant for cooking purposes only.



But this new model helps for waste management as well as *Community Biogas Model being explained* a source of alternate energy in cooking, generation of power as well as CNG Conversion and production of best quality organic fertiliser. In fact, during load shedding the community used generators operated by biogas to produce electricity. This environment friendly bio-gas model is creating a great opportunity for improving the livelihood of the rural populations.

Model on Integrated Water Management

Integrated Water Management (IWM) is an action research model, which generates its activities in an interactive way e.g. drinking water and water supply in nursery, cattle rearing as well as irrigation water supply etc. Dr. Chay visited the multipurpose, low-cost deep tube well at Mahastan, Shibganj, Bogra and discussed various issues on water user groups with Mr. Shahjahan, the president of the group, and its beneficiaries. She also visited some houses of beneficiaries to observe the ways in which they were benefiting from the project. Earlier the crop productivity was low as there was no scope of irrigation, as well as no safe water supply to households. It also created many water borne diseases among the children, women and elderly people. But with this project introduced by RDA, community people were able to solve their various problems on hygiene and food security.

Management of Fishing Ports in Partnership with Local Communities



Inaugural session of the workshop

Pilot Projects Division (PPD), CIRDAP in collaboration with Agriculture Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI) and Organisation of Jihad-e-Agriculture of Hormozgan Province, I. R. Iran organised a workshop on “Management and Maintenance of Fishing Ports and Longline Fishing in Partnership with Local Communities”, 8-11 October 2013 in the port city of Bandar Abbas, Iran. About 57 participants attended from different organisations like Fishery Department, Fishery and Fishermen cooperatives, Fishery Unions, Fishing Port Department and etc.

The resource person was Mr. Chandra Shekar Betgeri (rtd), former Director of Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), India. He is an expert on fishery harbour with 37 years of experiences on port designing and management. The programme was sponsored by “Fishermen Cooperatives”.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Salehi, head of the Organisation of Jihad-e- Agriculture of Hormozgan Province under the ministry of Jihad-e- Agriculture, I. R. Iran. While he was thanking CIRDAP for organising the workshop he also requested CIRDAP to help them with other issues

mostly on long line fishing systems and tropical fruit plantation and processing. He also mentioned that the fishermen cooperatives were very active in the province. He added that the province had a strong potential for fishing as it has 1400 km coast lines with the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea. It also hosts 22 fishing ports and 39 discharging centres.

At the end of the workshop, there was a session to prepare the action plan. The long-term goals in management and maintenance of fishery harbours were: a) Protection of the current natural resources; b) Job creation and income generation for youth; and c) Protection of sea against pollution.

At the workshop the above goals were discussed as future plans on Management of Fishing Ports in Partnership with Local Communities.

With reference to future plans, the workshop had a discussion on fighting against illegal fishery which was treated as the most important item by the participants, and changing from traditional fishing methods to modern methods. Children from these areas should learn about fishing and fishery issues as the workshop had indicated that the next generation should learn more on practical issues related to their future professions, such as sailing and fishing. The discussions also included aquaculture and freshwater fishery development and management. It was considered that protecting natural resources were imperative. Establishing auction halls in fishery harbours, organising training courses for managers of harbours and fishermen, and establishing refrigerators for fish storage were necessary to fight against the monopoly business of brokers or middle men where fishermen did not get a fair price. Also, it was understood that fishermen should get access to inputs of the fishing profession in low and the right prices from fishery harbours. In this respect private investment should be encouraged with policy support. The team also visited one of the fishing ports, namely Kong Port which is under management of a cooperative.

Establishing health centers in fishery harbours including constructing bathrooms, barbershops for fishermen are also necessary. There were further discussions on considering the vote of fishermen cooperatives for appointing top managers in fishery and the Ministry of Agriculture like other sectors of agriculture.

Also, providing fishermen with machines and services that included a reliable guarantee was deemed to be necessary. It was advised that the environment should be taken seriously, opting for approaches such as decreasing the sea pollution by vessels, use of plastic nets etc.

At the end it was suggested that training and exposure visits from CIRDAP Member Countries should further strengthen the cooperatives. It can be organised for at least two groups of ten fishermen addressing: a) Long line fishery and harbour management; and b) Regular preparation and propagation of informative booklets and magazines to update fishermen.

Biogas Energy for Community Development



Field visit to bio-gas production plant

Bangladesh and its representative in the programme made a presentation and discussed issues during the training session.

CIRDAP under the MoU with NAM CSSTC, Indonesia for conducting joint programmes under South-South Cooperation nominated S. M. Ferdous Hosain, Deputy General Manager, SMESPD, and Shah Md. Waheeduzzaman, Deputy Director, GBCSRD of Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka and Mr. Rowshan Jadeed, Senior Vice President and head of SME Department, Trust Bank to the International Training Programme on Biogas Energy for Community Development conducted in Solo, Indonesia, 22-29 October. These officials attended the programme. Trust Bank is supporting biogas energy in

Training

Regional Programmes

- CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on “Sustainable Rural Livelihoods”
- CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on “Results Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation”
- CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on Geo-Informatic Applications in RD for Sharing Innovative & Best Practices (GIS)
- CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Application for Rural Development
- Regional Workshop on “Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory”
- CIRDAP – MRRD Collaborative “Training Programme on Rural ICT Transformation: Bridging the Digital Divide”
- International Training Programme on Promotion of SMEs

Study-cum-Exposure Visits

- IAS Officers Delegation Visit CIRDAP

Diploma Programme

- Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (6th Batch 2013-14)

Focused Areas

- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- ICT for RD
- Sufficiency Philosophy and New Theory
- Rural Transformations
- GIS Applications for RD



The Training Division is one of the earlier divisions established by CIRDAP after its creation in 1979. As a regional organisation designed to provide technical support and promote integrated rural development in the region, it is logical that among the first activities to be taken upon would be a training support to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) in the area of integrated rural development. In the early years of its operation, the training programmes were basically geared towards advancing the cause of IRD, its concept and strategies. It moved on to provide training in the areas of general planning, monitoring and evaluation, project analysis, training methodologies and training management. By 1990, CIRDAP training took up other concerns such as disaster management, environment, gender issues, participatory approaches in planning, POPMAP application, and micro-credit. In recent years Training Division focused its concern on areas such as: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Geographic Information System, Watershed Programmes, Good Governance, Role of Local Government in Service Delivery for Poverty Alleviation, Rural Technology, Rural Livelihoods for Sustainable Development, etc.

During the year 2013, as in the previous year, with the financial support from the Government of India, four regional training programmes were carried out in collaboration with NIRD, Hyderabad, India in three CMCs, namely, Indonesia, Bangladesh and India. Besides, CIRDAP organised a workshop in Thailand with the financial support from the Royal Thai Government and a training programme in Malaysia with the financial support from the Government of Malaysia. During this period, the Government of Indonesia, NAM CSSTC and SOCSEA supported CIRDAP in organising training programmes in Indonesia.

Regional Programmes

CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on “Sustainable Rural Livelihoods”

Rural Development has been high on the national agenda of the majority of countries in the Asia-Pacific region since a vast majority of the population lives in rural areas and in poverty. Hence, it is a challenging task for policy makers to address the problem of poverty alleviation and providing livelihoods to the rural poor. It has also been observed that apart from various problems of rural areas, rural livelihoods have emerged as a very critical issue for the policy planners and consequently several programmes are in vogue.

Livelihood is about the ways and means of ‘making a living’. It comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. It is also about creating and embracing new opportunities. The concept and framework of sustainable rural livelihood has emerged from the 1980s and evolved from perspectives on poverty, participation and sustainable development. The approach is quite broad and covers various aspects, which has several ramifications.



Discussion during the training programme

This training programme provided an opportunity to explore government policies and programmes and analyse analytical framework and best practices among CMCs.

Undoubtedly, land is a fundamental livelihood asset and dependency of the rural poor is more on agriculture, but, due to decreasing productivity and other reasons, it is not as profitable as it involves various risks and limitations. Thus, there is a need to diversify income of rural households, they should rely on multiple activities to generate income.

In the present context, it is to examine and understand conceptual framework of rural livelihoods, its various approaches and modules, processes and factors that affect rural livelihoods among CMCs.

The broad objectives of the programme are:

- To familiarise with the policy framework and programmes among the member countries for poverty alleviation and sustainability of the rural development to address livelihood opportunities in rural areas;
- To discuss the concept, approaches of the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and relate with the socio-economic activities;
- To contextualise and analyse the major economic, social, cultural and resource based issues affecting rural people in achieving sustainable livelihoods; and
- To share and identify best practices for possible adaptation and replication.

The training programme on “Sustainable Rural Livelihoods” was designed to provide the participants with a deeper and practical understanding of the complexities of sustainable rural livelihood in the CMCs in particular, and in the region as a whole. The programme was a forum to acquire knowledge and to share experiences between the CMCs. It was designed in such a way that the participants had the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge on the subject in the class room as well as in the field.

The programme was jointly organised by CIRDAP and the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) at NIRD, Hyderabad, India. There were 21 participants in this programme from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Fiji, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General, NIRD on 3 January 2013. In his inaugural speech DG, NIRD welcomed the participants from CMCs and hoped that they would learn innovative models of livelihoods in India which would enable them to apply those in their respective countries. He thanked CIRDAP for taking the initiative to organising this important training programme. He also thanked the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for their generous financial support for the programme.

The evaluation of the programme by the participants revealed that it was very useful for the functionaries in the rural development and poverty alleviation sector and recommendations were made to organise this type of training programme in future, too. The participants hoped that by offering this kind of training programmes by CIRDAP, the member countries of CIRDAP would be able to achieve their developmental efforts.

The participants of the programmes in their remarks appreciated the initiative of CIRDAP and NIRD and they very much appreciated the goodwill gesture by the Government of India for funding the training programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP and Dr. K.P. Rao, Head – CSERE, NIRD.

CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on “Results Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation”



Country presentations being made

The programme was very important for CMCs as there is a necessity to develop proper Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools, and to effectively monitor progress and take collective action. The CIRDAP Technical Committee suggested developing the capacity of rural development functionaries, particularly by understanding the M&E tools.

The major concern was to have sustainable rural livelihoods improve quality of life and growth, and achieve the MDGs. To have a better appreciation,

almost all donor agencies have developed their own tools, methods and focus, relevant to M&E. In the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the role of monitoring and evaluation (in its various form and methods) has become an important aspect of national policy. New methodologies like participatory monitoring and evaluation, IFAD's results and impact management system in a log frame analysis, the World Bank's monitoring assessment tools for environment, etc. are all examples of growing concerns in effectively monitoring the programmes in poverty alleviation, MDGs, etc.

In this context, the following objectives are set for the training programme:

- 1) To develop a logical framework for pre-and-post project effects and impacts, both direct/indirect and social/economic factors;
- 2) To enhance the capabilities of the development functionaries/project managers to identify and develop performance indicators;
- 3) To improve the trainees' ability to identify, collect and analyse relevant data on various performance indicators.

The major contents of the programme were: participatory monitoring and evaluation; results management, results and impact assessment; logical framework and indicators – project design; development of project indicators; data collection and analysis; management by performance and monitoring; poverty and environmental assessment; country case experiences, etc.

The expected output of the training programme was to gain pragmatic understanding of result based monitoring and evaluation and to acquire knowledge-sharing of best practices in alleviating poverty in the region.

The programme was organised by CIRDAP at Jakarta, Indonesia on 4-13 March 2013 in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India; Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia. There were 21 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

At the Inaugural Session of the International Training Programme, the welcome remarks were made by Mr. Gunawan, Head of the Centre for Administration of Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General – Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. Mr. Gunawan expressed his gratitude to CIRDAP for entrusting the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia to co-host this important training programme. He also conveyed his appreciation to the Government of India, especially to the Ministry of Rural Development for supporting and



Field visit to Bandung Community Centre

funding assistance and the National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) in making the training programme possible. He mentioned that the aim of the programme was to share different countries' experiences on results based management. Since there are many common and different policies as well as methodological issues in results based management among different countries. It is thus through such training programmes that a good opportunity arises to share the best knowledge and experiences. Mr. Gunawan hoped that participation in this training programme would greatly contribute to the application of the results based management in the respective CMCs.

At the end of the training programme there was an evaluation of the programme and most of the participants mentioned that they had enjoyed the training programme and gained valuable knowledge to sharpen their performance in their respective working field. There was also a suggestion by the participants to the organisers that similar training programmes should continue for the benefit of CMCs. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Training Division and Dr. B. Chakravarty, Professor and Head, Center for Micro Planning, NIRD, India.

CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Application for Rural Development



Inauguration of the programme

managing natural resources, the environment, as well as effectively targeting these policies to combat social issues and share mutual concerns. It is against this background that CIRDAP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India organised the training programme at CIRDAP Headquarter, Dhaka, Bangladesh, in its newly constructed ICT Centre from 31 March to 9 April 2013. The programme was attended by nineteen participants from 14 CIRDAP Member Countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam in addition to the experts drawn from India and Bangladesh. The participants were senior level policy planners, implementers and committed to actions or acceptance of follow-up responsibility.

Background of the Programme

India has pioneered the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in various sectors in the economy and developed numerous innovative IT and IT enabled services and created great economic development in the world. The Indian ICT industry has operations in all parts of the world and has contributed substantially to the national economy; these ICT applications can be shared with the developing world in the CIRDAP Member Countries. The Indian ICT experience has been very useful to the member countries in their efforts at agricultural and rural development.

The ICT applications for rural development in India have gained global recognition and every country in the Asia Pacific region has been looking forward to study the success stories and best practices. Whether it is 'Gyandoot' in Dhar district connecting the rural cyber-cafes catering to the needs of the rural masses or the e-Chopals or e-Seva or the Bhoomi or CARD Projects, a model solution framework for electronic governance initiatives is available.

Application of ICT in Rural Development in CIRDAP Region

The Asian tigers along with countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, have made great strides in the development of ICT applications and many lessons can be learnt from these countries - which have

CIRDAP, in its efforts to assist the countries of the Asia-Pacific region in promoting sustainable rural development, has been pursuing activities that can create mechanisms for integration of human and institutional dimensions with technological innovations. With increasing acceptance and application of ICT in management and planning of rural development programmes and projects in many countries, it would be mutually beneficial for the countries in the Region to identify innovative approaches. These technologies can play a vital role in

contributed to their economic power. There are evolving ICT models in other countries in the CIRDAP region which could be shared among the countries for learning lessons, policies and programmes for greater economic development.

The internet web technologies are making the whole world a smaller place and assisting fast communication among countries, this is providing opportunities for IT and ITES employment opportunities, business and economic activities.

The applications of successful tools are in the realm of knowledge and information availability to the general public. In spite of key challenges like rules, access to information, infrastructure, skills and awareness, coordination, etc., some countries, specially India, are surging ahead to bring IT to the door steps of villagers. Examples like, community marketing information; landholding pass books (MP); a cluster of 70 villages (Wana) wired to provide agricultural, medical, educational etc. information and for milk marketing, BHOOMI project (in AP); community information centers (Kuppam), for government – citizen interface are great experiments for sharing of experiences and encouraging them for better delivery of rural services. This would encourage others to move from islands of success to widespread adoption. This is a sure way of integrating rural areas with the globalisation processes and encouraging rural people to integrate themselves into a new market approach and achieve MDGs.

The objectives of the training programme were to:

- Examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in rural development, among the CMCs, and review the current use of the ICT in rural development;
- Identify the potential areas where ICT related applications can play an effective role;
- Strengthen the networking mechanism among the institutions in the region, address their common rural development issues and promote information sharing for South-South cooperation;
- Showcase some important case studies on application of the ICT in specific sectors such as health, primary education, agriculture and e-governance for dissemination at the regional level; and
- Strengthen capacity building efforts of CMCs through Training.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP. The inaugural session was also addressed by Dr. P. Satish Chandra, Head and Associate Professor, Centre for Information Technology, NIRD, Hyderabad, India; and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP.

The programme was a mix of theoretical information and practical sessions apart from the field visits. The main programme areas were focused on ICT application for rural development in the Asia-Pacific; e-governance, information sharing, citizen interface, role of ICT in agricultural projects; ICT application for education, rural connectivity and service delivery; ICT applications – Bangladesh Experience; Grameen Projects for Rural Poor in Bangladesh; Project Management Techniques; e-governance experience in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, India; ICT applications in the Health Sector: Telemedicine; Significance of Data Centre; Geo-Spatial applications in rural development; ICT in citizen centric services; ICT initiatives for rural masses and other allied areas in the CIRDAP region.



Field visit to Union Information Service Centre (UISC), Narayanganj

The participants were taken to field studies to Baradi Union-Parishad Information Service Centre (UISC) of Narayanganj District. A brief discussion was held with Baradi Union Parishad Chairman and the participants observed the UISC activities. The Government of Bangladesh declared a vision of Digital Bangladesh by 2021 to ensure ICT services at peoples' doorsteps. UISCs commonly offer three types of services: government services, information services and commercial services. Government Services include Online Birth Registration, different types of government forms, government circulars and notices, online university admission, examination results, population census data entry, citizenship certificate and citizen charter of Union Parishad. Information Services include agriculture, health, education, law & human rights, tourism, environment and disaster management, science & technology, industry & commerce and employment. All these livelihood information are provided by National e-Tathayakosh (National e-Content Repository) which has online (www.infokosh.bangladesh.gov.bd) and offline (CD) versions. Commercial services, like m-Banking (Mobile Banking), life insurance, English learning, computer training, internet browsing, email, printing, scanning, composing, photocopy, laminating, data entry, photography, phone call, flexi load, mobile ringtone download, video show, video conference, projector rent, passport & visa processing, height and weight measurement, blood pressure measurement, soil test, arsenic test etc. are available. The participants also visited Sonargaon Lok Shilpa Jadughar (Peoples' Handicraft Museum).

The Valedictory Session was held at the newly built ICT Centre of CIRDAP. H.E. Mr. Pankaj Saran, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh was the Chief Guest and Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General, NIRD, was the Special Guest.

DG, CIRDAP in his speech mentioned that the newly built ICT Centre will contribute immensely to the CMCs for development of CMCs people. He expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for CIRDAP – NIRD collaborative international training programmes. DG, NIRD mentioned that collaboration with India through NIRD will continue. He reminded that NIRD played a key role in establishing this ICT Centre. He opined that older methods of monitoring and evaluation have gone and now it is very easy to access grassroots through ICT, for transforming the information for development. He thanked DG, CIRDAP and the participants from CMCs.

H.E. Mr. Pankaj Saran, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh and the Chief Guest of the valedictory session mentioned that rural development faced similar challenges in the countries of the region. He hoped enhanced cooperation among CMCs between representing countries, with more or less similar economies will contribute immensely. He assured his government's full support towards CIRDAP and affirmed to continue all manners of support. He mentioned that budget of rural development of the government of India is the second largest after defense. This means that the government of India has decided that a bulk of its tax payers' money will be invested in rural development. He stated that India has a large rural sector as well as a large population, and if India can link up these sectors, there should be no difficulty. Development should be in rural areas and not only in urban areas. He stressed on the fact that the ICT empowers the weakest of the weak in rural areas and wished CIRDAP success in the training programme, and later awarded certificates to the participants.

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP proposed a vote of thanks. She especially thanked the Chief Guest and the Special Guest of the valedictory session for their valuable support in making the programme useful to all CMCs.

All the participants thanked the organisers for sharing new knowledge that would be very useful to the individuals, as well as to their countries. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Training Division a.i, CIRDAP and Dr. Satish P. Chandra Head of the Center for Information Technology, NIRD, India.

Regional Workshop on “Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory”

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand in collaboration with CIRDAP organised the above workshop in Thailand during 16-20 September 2013. The workshop commenced from 17 September 2013 with an inauguration session. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP, made a brief presentation on the Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory and explained the modalities of the 3-day workshop. She mentioned that this was the third programme of such kind of workshops in a series which started in 2008, that was being organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand, which has benefited the rural development functionaries from the other CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). She highlighted the fact that the entire 3-day workshop was field based with hands-on experience on how the Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory was being actually implemented in Thailand. This would provide the participants from CMCs the opportunity to grasp the process and adapt and replicate it in their own country.



Inauguration of the workshop

The Chairperson of the inaugural session of the workshop was Mr. Chalit Damrongsak, Secretary General, National FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand, welcomed the participants from CMCs and informed that the Government of Thailand was sharing its best practices on Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory with CMCs. He then declared the workshop open. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, in his speech expressed that Thailand has made great strides in the development of marketing its rural products. The markets in other South-East Asian countries are flooded with Thai rural products which are in

great demand. The reasons for the high demand of Thai rural products were their high quality products and very good packaging. There is a lot of learning that the other CMCs need to imbibe from this kind of success of Thailand. He thanked the Government of Thailand for providing the opportunities to the other CMCs to learn from its best practices namely, Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory.

After the inaugural session the participants were taken to Luk Pradabos Agricultural and Development Centre, where there was a presentation on Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and the New Theory. Delegates were then taken to demonstration areas, namely, rice farms, pisciculture and fingerlings production centre, the ponds where water for irrigation is drawn from. On Day-2 the delegates visited Wat Mongkol Chaipattana Area Development Project where a presentation was made on how the foundation was implementing a project involving 150 farmers in and around the project area. The presentation explained how the farmers were trained on the different aspects of Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and the New Theory and the support they got from the foundation to practice the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and the New Theory. The farmers were trained on: making the pond to the level of four feet in depth; the maintenance of the livestock of the farms; and methods of growing vegetables and fruits in their fields along with rice cultivation. The delegates then visited the demonstration plots, ponds, nurseries and rice milling unit, where paddy husk is removed through simple machines and packed through air tight methods.

On Day-3 the participants from CMCs made their presentations on the Best Practices of their respective countries. Bangladesh made a presentation on the innovative initiatives undertaken by Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra. The presentation highlighted the best practices of RDA such as Low-cost DTW (Borehole) and its Multipurpose use for Sustainable Development; Efficient use of Water Resources for Agricultural Production in Bangladesh; Community Bio-Gas Plant for Production of Renewable Energy and Organic Fertiliser in Bangladesh; Multi-Storied Agriculture with Solar Power Irrigation, etc.

The delegate from India made a presentation on National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) under which the Government of India is providing training to people below poverty line and through this training empowering them to have better livelihood options. Lao PDR made a presentation on rural development in Laos which highlights core poverty alleviation or social development-focused rural development. The main focus of rural development in Lao PDR was infrastructure development; social welfare, food security; establishing social factors and production; clean water, school, health care and grassroots governance.

The Malaysian participant, in his presentation, focused on the rural and regional development efforts of the Government of Malaysia. In his presentation various types of agencies engaged in rural development in Malaysia, such as, FELCRA Berhad which plays a key role in the development of rural smallholder lands into productive plantation land as a means to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural populations, was mentioned. The Institute of Rural Advancement (INFRA); Department of Orang Asli (JAKOA); Community Development Department (KEMAS); Development Authority of Kelantan Selatan (KESEDAR); Development Authority of Terengganu Tengah (KETENGAH); Kedah Regional Development Authority (KEDA); Development Authority of Johor Tenggara (KEJORA); Rubber Industry Small Holder Development Authority (RISDA); Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) was responsible for encouraging and facilitating social and economic development in rural areas. The participant from Myanmar presented a project brief on the affected areas by Cyclone Nargis in 2009 at Kadonkani Village in Bogalay Township in Myanmar. The project was initiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand who recognised the importance of promoting knowledge-based society and economic development and who gracefully wished a cooperation project to be undertaken to construct a shelter that could be used as a school for people in Kadonkani village of Bogalay Township who were affected by Cyclone Nargis in 2009 as well as to help improve their quality of life.

The participant from Philippines made a presentation on a project called "An Experience of the Indigenous Peoples' Organisation, the Epiphany Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EMPC)." In her presentation it was mentioned that the Technical Assistance to EMPC included Organisational Assessment, Capability Building to Officers and Members, Membership Development, Resource Development & Network Management and Review and Formulation of Systems and Procedures. Consultative mechanisms were installed by the Cooperative through the general assembly and product launching to determine the members' needs and inform the current plans and services. The main



Grain processing within the farm

feature of the project was to address the cooperative's lack of capacity for project feasibility study and proposal preparation, DAR and Local-Based Partner Institution conducted training on Project Identification, Preparation and Appraisal. The Sri Lankan participant in her presentation highlighted a project namely, Agro-village Development Model. The rationale of the project was that since agricultural problems were interrelated, causes for marketing problems were related to the production such as over production, low quality and high production cost. Since problems were interrelated, many projects were not sustainable. Increased production has no meaning if marketing is a problem. Adoption of system approach is necessary for sustainable rural development instead of piecemeal approach. Rural development cannot be ensured only from the agricultural sector. Development of the non-farm sector is equally important. Human resource development should be added to the development process because attitude change is necessary. Thailand made a presentation on One Tambon One Product (OTOP). Thai presentation generated a lot of discussion.

The workshop came to an end with feedback from the participants where they expressed their gratitude to both CIRDAP and the Government of Thailand for facilitating this kind of exposure visit on

Sufficiency Philosophy and the New Theory. The participants were happy with the arrangements of the workshop because it was based on field visit which provided them with insights into the process of the new theory. DG, CIRDAP concluded the workshop conveying to the delegates of the CMCs the fact that CIRDAP was keen to facilitate more of such practices of CMCs. For this he looked forward to the cooperation from CMCs in terms of arranging local logistics for the workshop and travel support for the delegates that should be borne by the respective host countries. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director Training a.i, CIRDAP and Ms. Siriporn, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst.

CIRDAP – MRRD Collaborative “Training Programme on Rural ICT Transformation: Bridging the Digital Divide”

The Asian region has travelled a long way in the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in various sectors of economy, particularly agriculture, health, education, e-governance etc. India, Malaysia and Thailand among the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) have achieved substantial progress in ICT and contributed profoundly to the national development and export of IT enabled services. These models can be shared with other countries in the CMCs. In this context, the Malaysian ICT experience is useful to its Member Countries of its geographical proximity to bring science and technology to the rural areas. The successful Malaysian ICT applications in agriculture, health education, e-marketing, e-commerce, e-governance, land records are making headway in every country.



Presentation on 'ICT for Rural Communities' by Dr. Alvin Yeo Wee, Director, Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations

In view of this, with support from the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (MRRD), Government of Malaysia, as a kind of regional cooperation gesture for sharing experiences on Rural ICT between CMCs of Asia-Pacific, organised the above mentioned training programme in collaboration with MRRD, Government of Malaysia and CIRDAP, was being organised at Institute of Rural Advancement (INFRA), Putrajaya, Malaysia. The programme was held for five days' duration from 6-11 October 2013.

The programme started on 7 October 2013 with brief self-introductions by the participants. After this Mr. Eddy Sahrizan Rusli of INFRA, Malaysia explained to the participants the details of the arrangements of the programme which were chalked out by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (MRRD), Government of Malaysia. The first plenary session was on “Rural Development in Malaysia: Policies, Strategies, Challenges and Monitoring Mechanism” by Dr. Zulkhairi Md. Dahalin, Professor of IT, College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). He discussed the policies and strategies of Rural Development in Malaysia. The second session of day one was on “Malaysia ICT National Policy” by Dr. Huda Haji Ibrahim, Dean, School of Computing, College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UMM).

The second day of the programme entailed visits to the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (MRRD), Government of Malaysia at Putrajaya. During the first half of the day there were two sessions held at MRRD on “No One is Left Behind: Rural and Regional Development in Malaysia” and “National Broadband Initiative - Bringing Connectivity to the Nation”. The officers from Strategic Planning Division and Community Empowerment and Infodesa Division of MRRD explained the use of ICT in MRRD, particularly for the well being of the people of Malaysia and development of Malaysia. In the second half of Day-2, the participants were taken to Cyberjaya to get an insight and hands-on experience about the ICT activities in Malaysia. After this there was a session on “National Broadband Initiative - Bringing Connectivity to the Nation” by the resource persons from Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

On the third day of the training programme, the first session was on "ICT for Rural Communities" by Dr. Alvin Yeo Wee, Director, Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. Subsequently, there was a session on "Rural ICT Development" and the resource persons were from ITU, UUM. After the lunch break there were country presentations from the participants which were shared with other fellow participants of different countries.

On the fourth day of the programme a field visit was held and the participants went to Raub, Pahang, where the officials from Community Empowerment and Infodesa Division, MRRD, guided and explained to the participants about the ICT activities in Malaysia at rural and regional level. The participants also visited Mini RTC at Pamah Kulat, Raub, Pahang. In the afternoon the participants paid field visits to an internet café and gained experience on "1 Malaysia Internet Centre and Wireless Village" at FELDA Lurah Bilut, Pahang. The resource person for this session was Ms. Zafe Fazilah Abu Bakar, Deputy Director, Content Application Development Department, Rural Development Division, Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Malaysia.

On Day-5 there was a session on "Course Summary and Evaluation" and in this session there were resource persons from INFRA and MRRD. After this session there was the Closing Ceremony and Certificate distribution to the participants of the programme. On this occasion Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, gave a brief speech. He mentioned that he had requested the H.E. High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh to organise a training programme for the benefit of CMCs. On her initiative, this important training programme was organised by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Government of Malaysia in collaboration with CIRDAP. DG, CIRDAP thanked the Government of Malaysia for this kind gesture and hoped that this kind of collaboration between the member countries of CIRDAP would continue and the member countries would benefit from this kind of initiatives. He also thanked the participants for attending this important training programme and he hoped that they would apply their knowledge on returning to their respective countries. DG, CIRDAP also mentioned that the Government of Malaysia would take the initiative to organise this training programme on a regular basis like the Government of India organises regular training programmes for the functionaries of developing countries. At the end of the training programme certificates were awarded to the participants.

CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on "Geo-informatic (GIS) Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices"

GIS is proving as a very powerful spatial technology tool for understanding earth features, planning for resource optimisation, generation of decision alternatives, real-time monitoring and a host of related work, which has great potential in disaster management. The GIS is an accessible, affordable and easy to use tool which has been applied widely in various projects and programmes in the country by GOs, NGOs, Research Organisations and International Bodies in disaster management.

In the recent past in India and some other Asian countries, Geographic Information System (GIS) has emerged as an effective tool in designing rural development programmes, with focus on sustainable poverty reduction and environmental conservation. The recent trend is to move towards convergence of Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System and Global Positioning System for better managing the natural resources and the environment for achieving economic and social goals. With rapid advances, these technologies are now widely accessible at affordable costs. The GIS, has already created an enormous impact on virtually every field of activity that requires management and analysis of spatially distributed data.

Objectives of the Training Programme

Specific

- 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 CMCs, from India's experiences;



Participants of the GIS Programme

General:

- 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;
- 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
- 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.

In the above context, the CIRDAP – NIRD Collaborative International Training Programme on Geo-informatic (GIS) Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices was organised in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India during 22-31 October 2013. The programme was funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. There were 23 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The theoretical sessions of the programme was held at Geo-informatic Conference Hall of NIRD which is equipped with one-person-one-computer facilities. Since the training programme was on GIS, hence computer with all kinds of hard and software facilities were available in the conference hall, so that the participants could gain hands-on experience and insight in the realm of GIS application for development of a country.

The programme started on the morning of 22 October 2013 with an informal inauguration carried out jointly by the Course Directors from CIRDAP and NIRD. Afterwards a self-introduction by the

participants followed by CIRDAP and NIRD video show was held. The plenary sessions started with the session on Geo-informatics - Innovative and Best Practices in Rural Development in Asia Pacific Region by Dr. V. Madhava Rao, Course Director from NIRD side for this programme. Accordingly as per programme schedule there were sessions on GIS and other related issues taken by the resource persons from C-GARD, NIRD. There were also resource persons from India who were very prominent and knowledgeable on the subject. The topics covered in the training programme were:

- Basics, Process and Application of Geographical Information Systems
- Quantum GIS Software and its Applications in Geo-referencing and Digitisation
- Q-GIS: Working with Attribute Data, Hands-on Querying, Layout Preparation for the RD Project Maps
- Global Positioning System (GPS) Principles, Concepts and Applications
- Geo Informatics in Forest Resource Management- Best Practices in Asia Pacific Region
- Geo-informatics and Best Practices in Agriculture on Asia Pacific Region
- Geo-informatics Applications in Disaster Management in South East Asia
- Bhuvan – A Geoportal of ISRO: Its Use and Applications in Rural Development and Decentralised Governance
- Geo-informatics Applications in Emerging Areas & Future Technologies- APIB, GPR, LIDAR , Sensor and Mobile Technologies

Besides the above technical sessions of the training programme, there was a session on Country Paper Presentation on the subject matter of the programme by the participants from CMCs. This session was chaired by Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS, Director General (DG), NIRD, who spared his valuable time though he had a very busy schedule. He observed the presentation of country papers from Afghanistan, Thailand and Malaysia. In his remarks during the session, DG, NIRD mentioned that GIS, nowadays was very important for the planners, policy makers and development functionaries. This is a new developing field in the world. He

reminded the participants that natural resources of the world were becoming limited, hence, everybody should use these limited resources in a planned and prudent manner, and avoid wasting our natural resources. Effects of natural disasters like heavy rainfall, flood, drought, tsunami, etc. may be mitigated through forecasting and that is now very easy by GIS, so people can take necessary steps to challenge the different types of adverse situations. For development of agriculture, the farmers should be informed of the kinds of



Participants at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

mitigation they should take for better yield of crops. He cited the example of South Korea, where experts are monitoring flood control dams from their offices. The experts control how much water has to be released and how much is utilised. In this process GIS is playing a major role. GIS can be used in hilly areas, or in deserts to take corrective steps since the forest areas are decreasing day by day. NIRD is working to train functionaries to build their capabilities in the field of GIS. DG, NIRD mentioned that this technology is being used at the village level, where general people would attain



GIS mapping being explained

studies were organised to expose the participants to various aspects of GIS related subjects and rural development. The participants visited Karnataka State Remote Sensing Application Centre (KSRSAC) which is a regional centre for Geo-informatics at Mysore. At this centre the participants were shown by live demonstration, how remote sensing was used for the purpose of education, health, agriculture, etc. The participants were keen to know every aspect of the demonstration and felt happy to learn from the demonstrations. There were questions and answers during the session and the scientist who demonstrated every aspect of remote sensing, replied to all of the queries of the participants.

The participants then visited Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI), Hinkal, Mysore. The Director of the Institute Mr. B.J. Ananta Padmanabha explained the background, aims, objectives and services of RUDSETI. RUDSETI was established in 1982 with a unique initiative in mitigating the problem of unemployment which was taken jointly by Sri Dharmasthala Majunatheshwara Educational Trust, Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank under the visionary leadership of Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala.

The participants were interested to learn about RUDSETI in detail, and the Director of the Institute was generous in providing answers to the participants regarding whatever questions they had. The participants then visited the campus of RUDSETI and interacted with a group of trainees who were undergoing training on computer repairing. Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP, thanked the Director of the Institute for their good initiative and services to the underprivileged class of the society.

The participants were taken to Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development (ANS SIRD) at Mysore. Mr. Bakhtiar Khan, one of the senior faculty members of the institute, briefed the delegation about the functions of the institute. The main function is to train local government representatives through video conferencing. It was mentioned how distant learning was effective through video conferencing, and the impact it had in the improvement of society.

The participants visited the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP) at Bangalore. Dr. Rajendra Hegde, Senior Scientist of NBSS & LUP showed the participants different kinds of soil which is important to know for better yield of crops. The participants were curious to learn from Dr. Rajendra about soil related matters which NBSS & LUP were involved in. They also visited GIS Lab of NBSS & LUP and Mr. Vrinivas, Senior Scientist explained to the participants about the function of the GIS Lab which helped the planners and policy makers.

At the end of the programme there was an evaluation session by CIRDAP and NIRD. Most of the participants were satisfied with the conduct of the programme and they were happy about logistic arrangements made by NIRD. The valedictory session of the programme was held on 31 October 2013 where Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General, NIRD, spoke on the occasion and gave away the certificates to the participants. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP and Dr. V. Madhava Rao, Professor and Head, Centre on Geo-informatics Application in Rural Development(CGARD), NIRD and a few participants spoke on the occasion.

the benefits of this useful technology. Maps are currently used for development purposes.

As part of the programme, the participants were taken to various institutions/organisations that dealt with GIS. One of such organisation is Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) at Ocean Valley, Pragathi Nagar, Nizampet, Hyderabad. The Government of India has established INCOIS as a knowledge and information technology enterprise for the oceanic realm.

The participants were taken to Bangalore and Mysore in Karnataka State of India where field

International Training Programme on Promotion of SMEs

CIRDAP in collaboration with Directorate General for Rural and Community Empowerment (PMD), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia organised an International Training programme on Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises for Village and Community Empowerment in Bali Island, Indonesia, 17-22 November 2013.



DG, CIRDAP attended the programme and chaired the inaugural and closing sessions. There were 20 participants from 4 member countries of CIRDAP, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. There were discussions on the policy of Govt. of Indonesia on SME promotion, some good experiences of SMEs, bankers' policy on SME development and support and field visit.

Study-cum-Exposure

IAS Probationaries' Delegation Visit CIRDAP

At the instance of High Commission of India, Dhaka, a group of 18 Induction Trainees of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers visited CIRDAP on November 25, 2013. These officers were 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 an exposure visit.

While welcoming the delegates, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP, initiated the programme with a brief introduction on CIRDAP, followed by self-introduction by the delegates. The leader of the team Ms. Nidhi Sharma, Deputy Director, LBSNAA mentioned about the background of their training at LBSNAA and said that they were in Bangladesh to observe public service delivery and gain exposure to social sector issues in the country. She highlighted that Bangladesh had developed a lot in areas like sanitation, women's education, child mortality, micro-finance, etc. She mentioned that as Bangladesh is a very close neighbor of India, they would be happy to learn the best practices of social services delivery in Bangladesh and they will replicate their gained experiences in India. The delegates were shown the CIRDAP film show which generated a lot of questions by the delegates to CIRDAP.

The delegation wanted to know how CIRDAP had contributed to the rural development policy of the Government of Bangladesh. Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Asst. Programme Officer, Research Division, CIRDAP, mentioned the research project on 'Monitoring Adjustment Poverty (MAP)', which had policy implications on the Government of Bangladesh. The delegation was interested to learn how poverty was measured based on calories/consumption. Mr. Shafiqur Rahman replied that this aspect has variant issues on different classes of poor; Bangladesh, the Cost of Basic Need (CBN) method was used to measure poverty measurement, where 1800 calories is considered for 'hard-core poor', as a benchmark. Replying to the queries on Action Research projects in Bangladesh, Mr. David Hilton, Asst. Programme Officer, PPD, CIRDAP, explained how action research projects are undertaken in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). He cited about the action project on Community Information and Planning System (CIPS) and Model Village in Rural Development (MVRD) which is still going on for several years in CMCs.

Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP, expressed CIRDAP's gratitude to the High Commission of India, Dhaka for sending a group of senior officers to learn about innovative practices in Bangladesh.

She also highlighted that Bangladesh was the hub of microfinance and it had made meaningful impact in the lives of the rural poor. She suggested the group to visit some of the villages and discuss with the people about planning and implementation of rural development programmes in Bangladesh.

The delegates visited CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library and ICT Centre and were impressed with the collection of books, journals, reports in the library.



IAS Officers at CIRDAP

visit to CIRDAP was valuable that they had learnt many good things which would be considered while formulating policies and programmes of the government. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director a.i, Training Division, CIRDAP, coordinated the programme.

Director a.i, Training Division, CIRDAP, presented a comparative view of ICT in CMCs and highlighted critical indicators that may be considered while formulating public policy addressing for rural poor. 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, a member of the group proposed a vote of thanks to CIRDAP and expressed that their

Diploma Programme

One Year Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (6th Batch – 2013-14)

The National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, one of the Link Institutions of CIRDAP, is conducting one year residential Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM). The Sixth Batch commenced in August 2013 and they sought nominations from member countries of CIRDAP. It is a paid programme and the course fee is US \$7000, board and lodging is US \$5000 and caution money (refundable) US \$200. The objective of the programme is to develop committed and competent cadre of rural development management professionals and orient in-service officers and practitioners to various facets of rural development.

Under the regional cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, as a good will gesture has offered to sponsor five slots to CMCs in this programme in order to develop capacities of rural development managers. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, was kind enough to cover course fee, board and lodging charges, subsistence allowance, and to and fro air travel by shortest route in economy class from respective countries to Hyderabad, India. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has entrusted CIRDAP to solicit nomination from its member countries and scrutinise the criteria suggested by the Ministry and NIRD. On the basis of eligibility, criteria and suitability of the candidature, nominations will be forwarded to NIRD for consideration for admission in the programme.



PGDRDM students from CMCs with the Director of Training Division, CIRDAP

The following candidates from CIRDAP Member Countries were selected and nominated by CIRDAP recommended to NIRD for admission in this programme:

1. Mr. Ratu Irami Sauleibeci Lewaravu, Fiji
2. Mr. Naing Win, Myanmar
3. Mr. Chet Nath Giri, Nepal

Earlier CIRDAP had nominated candidates for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Batches. As per feedback from CIRDAP nominees, the course has been exceedingly useful to develop skills, knowledge and pragmatic perspectives on various facet of rural development management. This is highly encouraging since it is hoped that CMCs will avail this opportunity to develop a cadre of committed rural development managers.

Information and Communication

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

Focused Areas

- Publications
- Disseminating Knowledge
- Inauguration of CIRDAP ICT Centre
- Conferences, Seminars, Training and Collaborative Issues
- Strengthening Public Relations
- New ICT Projects



During the year 2013, Information and Communication Division (ICD) played a key role in generating knowledge, information management and dissemination. The activities of the centre, have been strengthened with valuable publications, updated website, launching a portal "InfoRD", enhanced connectivity with member countries, organising conferences/seminars/workshops, and increased collaboration with governmental and international organisations.

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

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

Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

In 2013, ICD strengthened its efforts to generate knowledge, its management, and dissemination. The ICD brought out the following publications:

- Rural Development Report 2011- "Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation"
- Capacity Building of Peoples' Organisations: A CIRDAP Action Research Experience

Regular Publications:

- Four Issues of the Quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest, CDD-131, 132, 133 and 134;
- Two Issues of Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD)- July and December Issues of 2013;
- ICD compiled the Rural Development Best Practices in CIRDAP Member Countries 2012 (No. 1) and 2013 (No. 2) – which were presented in the EC-29 and GC-19 meetings held in New Delhi, India in September 2013;



- New printed revised version of CIRDAP Brochure;
- A Compilation of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India , Sponsored CIRDAP-NIRD International Training Programmes “2003-2013- A Decade of Capacity Building of RD Professionals in CMCs” by NIRD, India, in September 2013;
- Reports of TC-28 and EC-29 and GC-19 Meetings, Training publications, etc. were published;
- Annual Report 2012;
- A mimeograph on “Capacity Building of Peoples’ Organisations - A CIRDAP Action Research Experience”;
- A brochure on Horizontal Learning Process.

CIRDAP e-News

CIRDAP has launched the e-Newsletter from July 2013. All recent CIRDAP news, events and activities were published monthly and sent it to EC/GC/TC and others by email. The CIRDAP e-News archive is also available at CIRDAP website.



Conferences/Training/Workshops/Seminars

Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on 'Youth in Development: Policies and Programmes' to Turn Demographic Dividend into Development Dividend



Inauguration of the conference

the crucial capabilities and transitions in a young person's life: learning for life and work, staying healthy, working, forming families, and exercising citizenship.

At present, 62 per cent of the world's youths live in the Asia Pacific region. Although there are no disaggregated data on youth living below the poverty line, it is evident that a substantial number of young people reside in areas in which poverty constitutes a major challenge. Approximately 84 per cent of the youth in the Asia Pacific region live in countries where at least one-third of the population subsists on less than US\$2 per day (United Nations, 2009; World Bank, 2007).

The Asia Pacific region's youth programmes are tailored to the particular youth issues faced by each country and therefore vary considerably in scope, ranging from communications and outreach functions to operationalising the youth agenda through lending and analytical work. Focus areas

Youths make up a large proportion of the population in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. How large this proportion is varies from country to country, ranging from Laos, where around 63 per cent of the population is under the age of 24, to Singapore where this number is closer to 19 per cent.

The 'World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation' recognises that this unprecedented bulge in the youth population poses a huge challenge to developing countries, but also that it can be a positive force for development. The key is to keep the right policy interventions focused on

include skills development and training, employment, community development, social and political empowerment, and capacity building for youth organisations. Each country programme is being implemented in close collaboration with youth organisations and associations, government agencies, local universities and a range of civil society partners.

Across the region, young people share a number of common development challenges: 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 expose them to numerous risks, including organised crime and violence and civil unrest.

There is a need to focus on improving the conditions for marginalised youth to become a more productive economic and social force. This would be accomplished by helping them to become economically active in growth sectors relevant to the economy and making a concerted effort to support their welfare and foster their educational, social and occupational transition (and reintegration) into adult society. To this end, it is needed to draw on lessons and experiences from youth programmes that have been undertaken successfully in some countries.

The Regional Conference was a regional initiative which will work towards addressing these youth concerns at the local, regional and global level. While the aims and strategy of the youth programmes differ for each country, it is hoped that this kind of regional initiatives will help influence a regional youth strategy that consolidates the experiences and best practices of the countries.



Conference in progress

The strategies adopted by each CIRDAP Member Country for its youth development programmes are not known by the other

CMCs. Some countries' youth development strategies are proving to be very effective (India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia), whereas there are some countries which do not have any specific youth development strategy for the development of the youth (Myanmar, Afghanistan). Therefore, it would be highly pertinent for collaboration between CIRDAP and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) to understand the dynamics of youth development in the Asia-Pacific region. This will also be highly relevant for the MoYAS, GoI in formulating policies and programmes for the youth in India.

In view of this, CIRDAP organised a Regional Conference on 'Youth in Development - Policies and Programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region' to facilitate sharing of experiences and learning from each other's best practices.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Enable the participants to appreciate the Youth Development Policies, programmes and strategies;
- Share experiences of Youth Development Policies;
- Share programmes and strategies in selected CMCs;
- Equip participants with the nuances of planning for Youth Development; and
- Expose the participants to the best practices in Youth in Development.

Out of the 15 member countries of CIRDAP, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran,

Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand had sent representatives to present country reports on youth policies and programmes. The three-day conference began at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) on 26 February 2013. Mr. Michael Vetha Siromony, I. A. S. Director of RGNIYD, delivered the welcome address in which he appraised the participation of international delegates and the contribution of CIRDAP in rural development and the present conference on youth development - policies and programmes.

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, addressed the gathering by stating that the successful practices of youth development should be shared with member countries as they hardly know about the recent developments. Mr. C. R. Kesavan, Vice-President, RGNIYD, delivered the special address. In his address he stated that youth policies should give due attention to differently abled persons. He also pinpointed the role of youth in nation building and unified approach to address the problems of youth.

Ms. Nita Chowdhury, I.A.S. Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India, delivered the inaugural address in which she highlighted that the focus should be given for inclusive development. She also pointed out that the present generation youth should take part in agriculture-related activities as she referred to a study conducted by TISS stating only two per cent of the youth are interested in agriculture. She made a call to forum to have a Memorandum of Understanding with CIRDAP to address the pertaining issues of youth development.

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Co-ordinator of the conference, and Director of ICD, CIRDAP, delivered the vote of thanks, and the conference moved on to technical sessions. The technical session was started with an introduction on the theme of the conference by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, and she mentioned that CIRDAP has focused on development and RGNIYD is pioneering in youth development. In line with the purpose of these two organisations, the Asia-Pacific regional conference has been designed. Followed by the brief introduction of members present at the conference, the floor moved on to the country presentations on youth policy and programmes, and discussed how the policies and programmes promote the participation of youth in the development process.

The following issues emerged out of the discussions:

- Need to devolve ownership of the national youth policy to all stakeholders during formulation and review of the NYP
- Youth to be regarded as partners in the development process, not treated as only objects or children
- Need to regard the youth as not only an economic power but also as a stakeholder in political participation
- Need to use Youth Development Index not only for evaluating the NYP but also for its formulation
- Identifying or establishing an agency for providing appropriate data and information in the formulation of the NYP
- Inclusion of third gender or transgender and differently-abled youth as one of the target group
- Inclusiveness in the NYP
- Needs and concerns of all sections of youth (ethnic groups, religious groups, rural-urban, tribal etc.)
- Need for coordination of all levels
- Horizontal (inter-sectoral) approach
- Vertical (national state or provincial level) approach

The programme also included some best practices of involving youth in the development process in different CMCs. The Conference was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information Communication Division, CIRDAP, Dr. D. Agochia, Youth Consultant and Dr Gopinath, RGNIYD, Training Officer.

Training on Communication Strategy for Agricultural Officials in Bangladesh



Inauguration of the Programme

marginalised people in less developed countries have limited access to information; and their capacity to make their voices heard is also constrained. Traditionally, government agencies and others have relied quite heavily on print media to communicate messages to the public.

There is a huge potential for audio-visual (radio, mobile/cell phones) and the Internet to contribute to development. Radio is often the most accessible and preferred of the mass media for the rural poor-including women, who can listen to it while working at home.

National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) has been exploiting this potential through a wide range of initiatives, using a variety of media to improve poor people's access to information for development and to enhance their capacity to articulate and communicate their needs to service providers and policy-makers.

In 2012, Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman, a consultant of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) under the Ministry of Agriculture, approached CIRDAP and requested to prepare a module of Training on Communication Strategy for Agricultural Officials in Bangladesh. As a result, a 3-day module was prepared and two programmes were held in January 2012 in Dhaka. Due to the success of the module, NATP organised two more batches for this year's training in June. This year, the suggestions made by previous participants were incorporated to make the training more effective, i.e. exercises to enhance skills of communication were increased rather than more lectures.

The focus of the programme was on:

- Accountability in delivering impact of research to farmers through effective and efficient extension services;
- Meeting the demands of an effective communication system which arises due to the development of new technology;
- Packaging of research results/outputs in simple messages for farmers and extension service providers;
- Providing extension service providers with proper communication tools for dissemination of the research findings to the farmers in time; and
- Bridging the communication gap among the researchers, extension workers, farmers, traders and agro-business personnel.

The Programme Coordinators were Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP and Mr. Harun-ur-Rashid, Training and Communication Expert, NATP.

NIRD-CIRDAP International Collaborative Training cum Workshop on "Planning and Management of Rural Housing Programmes"

The 6-day training was inaugurated by Director General, NIRD, Dr. M. V. Rao at Hyderabad and lasted from 29 April to 4 May 2013. The DG, NIRD expressed his satisfaction at the success of the joint collaboration between NIRD and CIRDAP in organising need based programmes for the last one year. This programme is the second in the joint collaboration.

Communication of information plays a vital role in development, enrichment and improving many aspects of lives in the social, economic, cultural and political contexts. People need to receive information, and also to make their voices heard. Open and transparent information flows are an integral part of good governance and economic development. Poor and

A total of 25 participants from selected CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand and from India participated in the programme. The programme included sessions on Understanding the Rural Livelihoods & Infrastructure Nexus and Inequalities; Affordable Housing for All and the Challenges and Opportunities Related to It; Best Practices in Rural Housing in CMCs; Comprehensive Approach to Sustainable Development: A Case of Eco-village; Convergence of



Workshop in progress

Total Sanitation & Community Health with Rural Households; National Rural Building Centre and Rural Technology Park; Educating the Beneficiary through Field Publicity On Rural Housing; Effective Implementation of IAY Programme - Role of AWAASSoft; Management of Housing Projects; Need for Coordination & Communication; Disaster Proof Housing Techniques and Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities; and many group discussions and field visits.

The participants were taken on a field trip to be exposed to construction tools and techniques in the National Academy of Construction, and to understand cost-effective and eco-friendly technologies for rural housing. They also visited the rural housing projects implemented by the provincial government. At the end of the programme they prepared back-home action plans.

The valedictory session was chaired by DG, CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi. Addressing the participants, he urged the countries to make the maximum advantage of the capacity building programmes on vital issues of Rural Development that are being sponsored and conducted by Govt. of India and NIRD since such programmes provide countries with the opportunity to learn from each other. He mentioned that currently there is a reduction in such programmes organised by the UN and other agencies, and even if they do organise them, their charges are high. The Programme Coordinators were Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP and Dr. Sivaram from NIRD.

Seminar on ICT Development in Bangladesh: Opportunities & Challenges

A seminar was held on 24 August 2013, in collaboration with the High Commission of India in Bangladesh and BASIS. Entrepreneurs in the IT sector sought Indian support to help train Bangladeshi professionals as the country has a scarcity of skilled people in the industry. Bangladesh has a huge shortage of skilled IT professionals as the educational institutions in the country cannot produce the expected number of skilled people.

DG, CIRDAP as the special guest in this seminar said that promoting access to Information and Communication Technology has been identified as an important tool to alleviate poverty, especially for rural areas where a very small percentage of the population can enjoy its services. CIRDAP firmly believes that through the use of ICT services, rural communities can find new income earning opportunities, improve delivery of basic services and enhance their participation in the decision making process.

CIRDAP, with keen interest observes how governments and development agencies in most CMCs have tried to bring ICT services to rural communities, very often through the use of community e-centres and especially the mobile phones which have revolutionised the way the government has to deal with its own people.



Inauguration of the seminar

challenges in the rural areas. Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are far ahead in using the ICT for development of the rural areas.

CIRDAP looks forward to the cooperation of India, Bangladesh and other CMCs to ensure that the digital divide between urban and rural areas is bridged.

Orientation Workshop on Information Technology- IT for UP Secretaries

An Orientation on Information Technology (IT) for 47 Union Parishad (UP) Secretaries was organised at CIRDAP ICT Centre on 23 September 2013. National Institute of Local Government (NILG) arranged a regular Foundation course for UP Secretary (29th Batch), to manage and execute the chartered duties and responsibilities of UPs in an organised manner.

Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director, Pilot Projects Division of CIRDAP attended as the Chief Guest and made the welcome address with a brief description of CIRDAP activities, representatives from Water and Sanitation Program (WSP)-World Bank team, JICA (Japan International Cooperation), DPC for HLCS, UP Help Line and others actively participated in the workshop. Using the well-equipped IT laboratory of CIRDAP, UP Secretaries learned to open and operate email accounts, Facebook etc. At the end of the orientation workshop the UP Secretaries used the email to communicate with each other.

ICT Support and Services

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) wing of ICD efficiently and sincerely rendered its services to the Centre and its member countries. Regular trouble-shooting tasks and the supply of computer peripherals were maintained without any hindrance throughout the year. About 40 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professionals are being maintained. A Kaspersky Server is also being maintained to protect computers from viruses. Network switches and routers are being maintained to provide broadband internet connection to CIRDAP staff. CIRDAP operates its online set-up in collaboration with Google and BanglaNet Ltd. Video conferencing facilities are also provided to different CMCs or CLIs via Skype, as and when required.

Inauguration of the CIRDAP ICT Centre

The Indian High Commissioner, Pankaj Saran, inaugurated the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Centre at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka on the 9 April 2013. The ICT Centre has been established to facilitate bridging the digital divide among CMCs. Pankaj Saran emphasised that the ICT Centre needs active support CMCs to make it functional, which in turn can support the economies of the CMCs, as well as contribute to creating "Digital Bangladesh."



Inauguration of the CIRDAP ICT Centre

Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP, who also launched InfoRD Portal (InfoRD.org) affirmed that with this ICT centre, the capacity of CIRDAP increased to provide better services to its member countries.

The Government of India sanctioned an amount of US\$183,000 for establishing the ICT Centre in Dhaka in 2010. The CIRDAP ICT Centre is located in the International Conference Centre of CIRDAP that had been donated by the Government of

Bangladesh and inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the 11 March, 2013.

Dr. M. V. Rao, Director-General, the National Institute of Rural Development of India; Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director-General, CIRDAP; Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director-Information and Communication Division of CIRDAP; and Hossein Shahbaz, Director, Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP, also spoke on the occasion.

InfoRD.org

CIRDAP has started an Info Rural Development portal which is a repository of information on rural development of CMCs in particular and in Asia-Pacific region in general.

Data, videos, and best practices of CMCs find place here for sharing with each other and to learn from each other. This being a collaborative portal, contributions flow from the member countries. Thus the portal is the knowledge hub of CMCs. Visit the portal for latest information about Rural Development at: www.inford.org



CIRDAP Websites

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

MOU Between CIRDAP and Ministry of ICT

The Ministry of ICT, Government of Bangladesh, and CIRDAP have the mandate of promoting coordinated efforts, exchange experiences and cooperative action for furthering the objectives of the application of ICT for development of rural areas. Therefore, CIRDAP and the Ministry of ICT, Government of Bangladesh entered into a MoU for collaborative ventures on the 2 September 2013.

This MoU establishes the foundation necessary for accomplishing the following objectives:

- To facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, views, and knowledge between the parties.
- To organise exposure visits and training/education programmes in the field of ICT for rural development and areas of mutual interests.
- To take up projects jointly, particularly multi-country projects in the region.
- To conduct joint seminars, meetings, symposia and workshops.

By virtue of the experience of Ministry of ICT, Govt. of Bangladesh and CIRDAP, areas for particularly fruitful joint cooperation are, but not limited to:

- **Capacity Building:** the involvement of experts sought for the implementation of training programmes in the field of ICT Applications for Rural Poverty Reduction and Development.
- **Exposure Study Visit:** the exchange of professionals with the intention of making an exposure-cum-study visit.



Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Govt. of Bangladesh

Specific mechanisms for the implementation of particular collaborative activities shall also be established.

MoICT Secretary Visits CIRDAP

ICT Secretary of Bangladesh, Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, visited CIRDAP in November to have discussions on implementation of the CIRDAP-MoICT MoU. He was accompanied by Mr. Shyama Prasad Bepari, Joint Secretary of MoICT and two officials from the Learning and Earning Programme of MoICT, namely Mr. Khalid Noman Husain and Md. Raizul Islam Khan.

The secretary discussed with the Director of ICD on training programmes which need to be organised on Graphics, Video Editing and Animation as part of the initiative for Capacity Building of USIC Entrepreneurs Bangladesh.

The major objectives of this initiative will be to equip entrepreneurs with skills in graphics, animation & video editing, enable the USW entrepreneurs to impart similar training at the Union Parishad level and facilitate in developing useful mobile phone applications for the rural areas of Bangladesh.

This meeting was followed by another meeting the next day with Dr. Mohammad Abul Hasan, Deputy Secretary, MoICT & Programme Director, National Mobile Application Development Awareness & Capacity Building Programme, Mr. Tayhidul Islam, National Mobile Application Development Awareness & Capacity Building Programme and Mr. S. M. Ashraf Abir, CEO, Multimedia Content & Communications Ltd. Discussions included plans for awarding Certificates for the CIRDAP-MoICT Training which may be arranged through Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB). There was also mention of an idea generation workshop with National Institute of Local Government (NILG), RDCD, plans for organising Language Training Centre and the need for the MoICT to upgrade systems with Java.

India to Establish a Virtual Learning Centre in CIRDAP ICT Centre

Virtual Learning enables the development and building of online resources that provides a centralised hub for information and idea sharing among development functionaries, researchers, trainers and policy planners. A VLC (Virtual Learning Centre) is necessary to create space for dialogues and interactions, as well as repositories, multimedia resources, documentation, policies, programmes, best and innovative practices of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) etc. VLC is especially significant in projects that have the potential for continued or further implementation in CMCs for their development.

The purpose of this project is to develop a system that enables academic, research, training and outreach of awareness, sensitisation, skill enhancement and knowledge dissemination among cutting edge rural development functionaries in the CMCs.

The proposal of the project is to develop a system within CIRDAP through Virtual Learning Environment and incorporate various technologies of ICT and GIS, for easy access, interactivity, knowledge sharing, real time multimedia mode, effective and innovative methods in planning, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of rural development programmes and projects in the CIRDAP region.

It is proposed that the VLC will be designed and created in collaboration with the Centre on Geoinformatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Hyderabad, India.

The CMC link institutes will contribute in terms of best practices, case studies, innovative practices, data and information base to make the system a hub of all development resources of CMCs.

In addition, the CMCs are encouraged to prioritise the importance of the constituent processes of reflection and planning rather than concentrating exclusively on the production of "outputs", be they paper-based or electronic. This project is consistent of an approach to implementing VLC in that it will provide people with a means of ensuring that the process elements are emphasised, and it is sufficiently flexible to allow countries to tailor and adapt content to reflect the need and priorities.

India to Setup Centre on Geo-informative Applications for Rural Development at CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh

For development activities to be effectively planned, implemented, monitored and evaluated, it is necessary to have a strong information base. More so, when the area where these development activities are targeted are mostly remote, backward, poverty stricken, in the developing world and has a rural characteristic, with people whose abilities and experience to utilise and harness the development process is itself low. Geoinformatics and a Geographic Information System (GIS) based Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) encompasses a well laid out geospatial database of high resolution remote sensed images coupled with a precise Global Positioning System (GPS) which has the capability and efficiency to address the information needs for development.

Centre for Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD), NIRD has a rich experience in Geoinformatics Applications, with regular national and international training programmes and has Research and Action Research Studies in the rural development sector. CGARD has designed and developed numerous open source customised applications which has potential applications in agriculture, infrastructure, natural resources, environmental, disaster management, governance and aims to develop, implement, manage and sustain such a system in CMCs over a period of time.

The main objectives of this Project is to establish a state of the art Geospatial Application Center called the CGARD in the International Convention Centre at CIRDAP, Dhaka.

The Centre would aim to help in consolidating the information on all the socio-economic, demographic aspects, including the natural resources availability of the selected areas and their potentiality besides planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various Rural Development programmes. It will also help in demystification and dissemination of latest technologies like Remote Sensing, Geoinformatics Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS).

Training and capacity building will be undertaken by the development functionaries from CMCs to develop geospatial database at high resolution of 1:10,000 or better. In phase one, which lasts about 8 to 10 months, high resolution data will be gathered from available satellite imageries, selected GPS/DGPS based surveys will be undertaken and participatory local area information will be integrated. With extensive discussions with the stakeholders - local people, officials and opinion leaders, political leaders, a prioritisation of the needs of the community will need to evolve for each of the CMCs. These will be updated on real time mode through web or internet GIS up to local area and in developing Village Spatial Decision Support System (VSDSS).

The proposed CGARD Centre will also assist Capacity Building and Geo-informatics Technology Dissemination Centre. It is envisaged that all the activities will staff simultaneously in phase one i.e. by the end of the third year it is expected that sufficient manpower and expertise would be created at the CIRDAP CGARD Centre, Dhaka and will follow GIS Open Source Consortium International Standards.

CIRDAP to Organise e-Learning Training on Disaster Management

Director of Information and Communication division of CIRDAP visited CSE Department of Dhaka University (DU) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on 18 August 2013 regarding collaboration for conducting a training programme in the CIRDAP ICT Centre and for organising e-Learning Training Programme by AIT/CIRDAP/BUET. AIT Thailand and CIRDAP will organise e-Training on Disaster Management through video conferencing.

Library Services

Basic Library Services

The services provided by the library throughout the year included: current awareness service; selected dissemination of information; referral services; bibliography services; photocopy services; reading room services; preparing library plan; budget reports; and tending to library patron's requests, as required.

Regular library activities (i.e. accessing of library books and periodicals, processing of library materials, updating library database, shelving of books/periodicals/newspapers etc) were also carried out.

Newspaper Clippings

These entail comprehensive information services for researchers and experts interested in rural areas for poverty alleviation, specifically in the Asia-Pacific region. Newspaper clippings mainly focus on agrarian development; institutional/infrastructural development; and resource development, including human resources and employment.

CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Services have been further strengthened, CAL newspaper clipping services are being sent to the professional staff of CIRDAP every month, and hard copies are kept for all professionals. Some development news has also been published on CDD.

New folders are maintained under the following topics: Climate Change & Global Warming, Poverty Reduction, ICT for Rural Development, Sustainable Development, Food Security and Nutrition, Rural Education, SME Development, CMC's Decentralisation & Good Governance, Water & Sanitation, Disaster & Risk reduction, Rural Technology Development, Renewable Energy.

Publication Exchange Programme

CIRDAP publication exchange programme has also been expanded, with numerous important institutes & organisations being added to the list.

Success Stories from CIRDAP Member Countries

CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library (CAL) regularly collects success stories from CIRDAP Member Countries related to rural development and disseminates these via e-mails to professionals. A plan on publishing the collected stories is currently under process.

e-Books Collection

CAL regularly collects e-books relevant to rural development to enrich the CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library (CAL). More than 600 e-books have been added to the CAL database as of yet. CIRDAP staff can access these e-books through the local network at the office.

Collecting Free Database & Free Journals, Free Library Websites:

CAL collects some free rural development related databases which are available on various journal websites (for example: Social Science Research Network (SSRN). Free library websites (such as, The World Bank Open Knowledge Repository (OKR)) to disseminate rural development knowledge and information regarding latest resources for CIRDAP professionals are available free of cost.

Interesting News from CIRDAP Member Countries

Important news are collected regarding social and economic issues of rural communities of CIRDAP Member Countries and are sent to the CIRDAP professionals bi-monthly via e-mail attachments.

Contacting Publishers

CAL contacts local (Bangladesh) and International Publishers for purchasing new books and journals.

Collected Rural Development Journals Articles

Articles from journals which are received and collected by CAL, along with articles available in websites, and subscribed journals for CIRDAP's professionals, are relevant to rural and poverty alleviations factors.

Communication and Collaboration with Regional Library Networks in Bangladesh

CAL participates in library networks in Bangladesh for exchanging information dissemination. It has also been part of various library programmes and workshops with many libraries in Bangladesh, like the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) & Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalist (BALID) and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh, ICDDR,B.

Preparing Proposal for 'Digital Library'

A proposal for 'Digital Library' was prepared and submitted regarding the upgrading of current CIRDAP Publications.

Public Relations

Public Relations activities were strengthened in 2013. Widespread coverage was given in print and electronic media for important events like the 34th Foundation Day Programme. A special interview programme for the Director General, CIRDAP in Bangladesh Television was organised and aired.

Administration and Finance

Administration

- CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC)
- Technical Committee
- Executive Committee / Governing Council
- Human Resource

Finance

- Auditor's Report



Administration and Finance Division

The main activities of the Administration and Finance Division are to provide administrative support services to the Office of Director General and the Programme Divisions in achieving the Center's objectives in an efficient and economic manner. The services include, among others, arranging meetings of CIRDAP Policy Bodies viz. Technical Committee (TC), Executive Committee (EC), Governing Council (GC) and implementation of the decisions of the said meetings related to the administration and financial matters. It is also responsible for arranging recruitment/separation of staff, extension of tenure/increment of the staff members, procurement, maintenance of office premises/properties/ campus & arrangement of residential accommodation for professional staff members, protocol duties, management of CIRDAP auditorium/cafeteria, liaison with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, LGRD & Cooperatives, Housing & Public Works and other concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities and regular maintenance and renovation work of the CIRDAP Complex, etc.

The division recommends and administers financial policies/procedures and arranges interim and final audit work of the Centre. It prepares annual and biannual Programme of Works and Budget (PWB), maintains expenditures in different projects and maintains ledger/books of day-to-day financial activities in local and foreign currency.

Administration

Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Inaugurates CICC



Inauguration of the CICC

Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder and CIRDAP Director General Dr. Cecep Effendi also spoke on the occasion.

The size of CICC building is 21900 sq. ft. and required a total cost of Tk. 16.10 crore to be built. The ground floor of CICC is of 8500 sq. ft. and contains the main conference hall with a capacity of 180 persons, a lobby for the Conference Hall, a Media Room with Information Corner, a reception, toilet zone, a sub-station and a generator room. The first floor is 7200 sq. ft. and contains a Conference Hall with a capacity of 110 persons, a lobby, a dining hall and a cafeteria, a kitchen and pantry, toilet zone, store room and waiting room. The second floor is 6200 sq. ft. and contains the ICT Centre with a computer lab, VIP dining hall with a capacity of 60 persons, pantry for dining hall, wash area, toilet zone, waiting area and lobby.

Operation of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC)

CIRDAP regularly conducts seminars/conferences/workshops/exposure visits/training programmes etc. where delegates from different CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) participate. But, there was no

Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) on 11 March 2013 by unveiling its plaque.

She began delivering the inauguration by giving emphasis on identifying the emerging challenges and opportunities of globalisation in the regional context and sharing of experiences on poverty reduction with each other that could help them mutually.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister H.E. Syed Asrafur Islam, State Minister H.E.

international standard conference centre of its own. The need for this type of conference facility was felt while organising the CIRDAP Governing Council meeting and regional level policy dialogue in 2005 in Dhaka, Bangladesh where ministers and secretaries of CIRDAP Member Countries participated.

In this background, Public Works Department (PWD) of Ministry of Housing & Public Works was entrusted to implement the construction work of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) by the Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives. On completion of the works, PWD handed over CICC to CIRDAP authorities on 4 November 2012. CIRDAP staff remains committed to maintain the CICC. Last year, a good number of mercury lights, toilet fittings etc. were replaced by new ones. A number of paintings were collected from Indonesia, Iran, India and Bangladesh which are displayed in the complex.

As per the decision of GC-17 (January 2010), and as per request from DG, CIRDAP, the government of India expressed their interest to establish an ICT center in the CICC building and released an amount of Rs. 86,00,000 lac (US\$ 188,100) in favour of the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD). The ICT Centre was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Pankaj Saran, the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh on 9 April 2013. To enhance security of the ICT Centre, some civil works were completed last year.

Twenty-Eighth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-28)

The Twenty-Eighth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-28) and South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development were held at the Media Hotel Towers, Jakarta, Indonesia from 23-24 May 2013, followed by a South-South Dialogue among CLIs organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia from 25-28 May at Jogjakarta. TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (except Iran), H.E. Ambassadors of Afghanistan, Myanmar and Fiji, H.E. Secretary of AARDO, Director of CAPSA, CEO of TFnet, Executive Director of SEARCA, Head of the Education of NAETC, Rector of the College of Management for Agriculture and Rural Development Vietnam, and the Director of Bina Swadaya were present at the inaugural session.

To conduct the above mentioned programmes, all kinds of administrative, logistic, protocol and financial support were provided by the Administration and Finance Division.

Twenty-Ninth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-29) and Nineteenth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-19) and Sixth Regional Policy Dialogue

The Twenty-Ninth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-29) and Nineteenth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-19) and Sixth Regional Policy Dialogue were held in New Delhi, India during 27-30 September 2013. The high level delegation comprised of Ministers, Secretaries of the line Ministries of the CMCs, participants from non-CMCs and other distinguished guests stationed in Delhi, who attended the meetings. On the occasion of the said meetings, all kinds of administrative, logistic, protocol and financial activities were done by the Administration and Finance Division. This Division also prepared working papers for EC-29 and GC-19 and Director General Report on the activities of administrative and finance matters.

Introduction of Festival Bonus and Enhancement of Salary of CIRDAP Staff Members

In the EC-29 and GC-19 meeting, it was decided that festival bonus (equivalent to one month pay) would be granted to regular employees of the Centre with effect from 2013. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) with 5% increase of the salary to CIRDAP staff has been introduced with effect from January 2014 for two years, which were approved in the said meeting.

Human Resource

Appointment of Head of Administration and Finance

The interview for the position of Head of Administration and Finance was held on 14 February 2013 by the members of the Interview Panel. As recommended by the members of the Interview Panel and approved by the Director General, Mr. Md. Mahbub Alam was appointed as Head of Administration and Finance on 11 July 2013. All necessary arrangements regarding appointment of Head of Administration and Finance were made by Administration and Finance Division.

Works in Relation to Information and Communication Officer

Assistant Information and Communication Officer (AICO) resigned from the services of CIRDAP on the 31 March 2013. All necessary arrangements like publication of advertisement in the daily news paper, preparation of database of the applicants, activities regarding interview of the candidates, preparation of the minutes of the meeting etc. were made by Administration and Finance Division.

Appointment of Other Staff Members

During 2013, one Temporary Editorial Assistant, one Temporary Bearer and one Imam (on contract basis) were appointed. Necessary arrangements were made in connection with the appointment procedure of those staffs.

Separation and Resignation

Mr. S. K. Singh, Director (Training) and Ms. Khin Mar Oo, Programme Officer (Training), Mr. Majibar Rahman, Special Officer (PRMU), Mr. A.B.M. Rezaul Hasan, Secretary (Admin. & Finance), Mr. Narayan Chandra Mondal, Janitor and Mr. Md. Dianat Khan, Watchman were separated from the services on completion of their contract with effect from 1 February 2013, 31 January 2013, 6 June 2013, 15 June 2013, 1 April 2013, and 1 July 2013 respectively.

Besides above, Ms. Zeenat Ahmed, Assistant Information and Communication Officer, Mr. S. M. Anowarul Haque, Library Assistant and Mr. S. M. Saifuddin, Publication Assistant resigned from the services of CIRDAP.



Farewell to Dr. Singh (centre)

Personnel Advisory Committee

The Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) of CIRDAP advised the Director General regarding all appointment, promotion, renewal of tenure, confirmation of appointment, separation/termination of the staff members and other HR related matters which took place during last year. During 2013, 7 PAC meetings were convened for confirmation, renewal and separation of services of CIRDAP staff members.

Purchase and Maintenance Committee

The Purchase and Maintenance Committee of CIRDAP considers cost, quality, necessity etc. regarding any purchase/maintenance of property/equipment of the Centre and provides fair suggestion/recommendation in order to take appropriate decision by the Authority. A total of 32 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2013.

Transportation

CIRDAP arranged maintenance work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP from Navana Toyota Service

Centre. Arrangements for getting insurance and fitness certificate of the office cars were made from Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

Protocol Support

Administration provided required protocol support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA, transportation to airport to receive and see-off the travelers, arranged accommodation, food transport etc., liaison with embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for the visas for the travelers in connection with all the CIRDAP programmes held during 2013. Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staffs of CIRDAP in getting renewals of their passport/ visa, arrangement for accommodation, along with required maintenance and renewal of agreements with the land lord for the tenancy of the Directorial staff etc. were made.

CIRDAP Auditorium and CICC

All necessary civil, electrical and other works of the CIRDAP Auditorium and CICC were done by PWD during the year. Necessary repairing works of the air-conditioning and PA system of the CICC were also done by PWD of Bangladesh.

Renovation / Maintenance Work

Painting/necessary repair works of the CIRDAP main building, front side of CIRDAP Annex building (Auditorium building), cafeteria and mosque were done by the PWD. Necessary measures were also taken for beautification of the garden.

Participatory Activities

CIRDAP has introduced weekly game for the staff members every Thursday afternoon. Besides, 'CIRDAP Cleaning Day' (every two months) has been introduced where the staff voluntarily participates to clean their own offices. Monthly Staff Meetings were also organised where Director General and staff interact and discuss some common issues.

Foundation Day Programme

Administration and Finance Division organised the 34th Founding Anniversary Programme on 6 July 2013, at the CIRDAP Headquarters. To mark the day, a blood donation programme was organised where CIRDAP staff members donated blood.



Blood donation programme

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 during 2012 were US\$1,358,669.78 and US\$722,697.95 respectively. Income and Expenditure of Trust fund for the year 2012 were US\$300,121.52 and US\$180,772.98 respectively.

Audit of the Accounts

The Interim accounts of the Centre for the year 2012 was audited by Dr. Pirbhoo Sochi Lal, Director Commercial Audit, Karachi, Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, from 5th May 2013 to 13th May 2013. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Report and the financial statements for the year 2012 have been furnished below:

**AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP
FOR THE INTERIM YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2012
FOR THE 17th BIENNIUM (2012-2013)**

The undersigned has examined the financial statements of CIRDAP (Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) for the Interim year ended 31st December, 2012 for the seventeenth biennium (2012-2013) on the basis of information and explanations provided.

Audit was 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 test basis and ensuring adequate disclosures in the financial statements.

The undersign opines as a result of the audit, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, subject to the auditor's observations attached herewith.

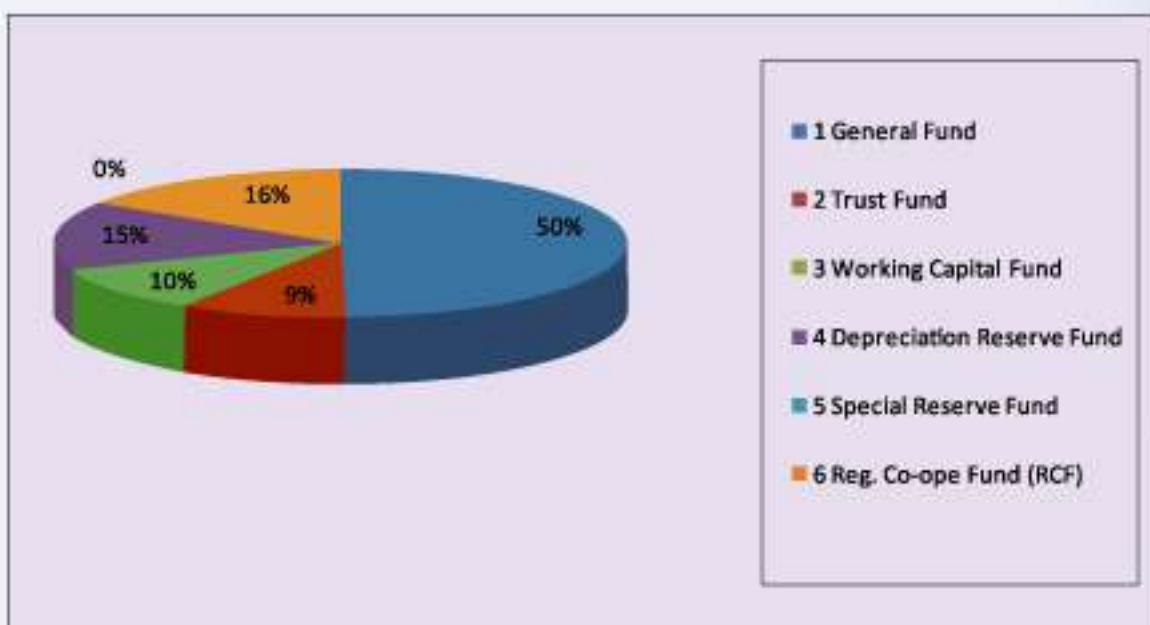


Dr. Pirbhoo Sochi Lal
Director Commercial Audit, Karachi
Office of the Auditor General of
Pakistan

Dhaka, 13th May 2013

CIRDAP Fund Status As at 31st December 2012

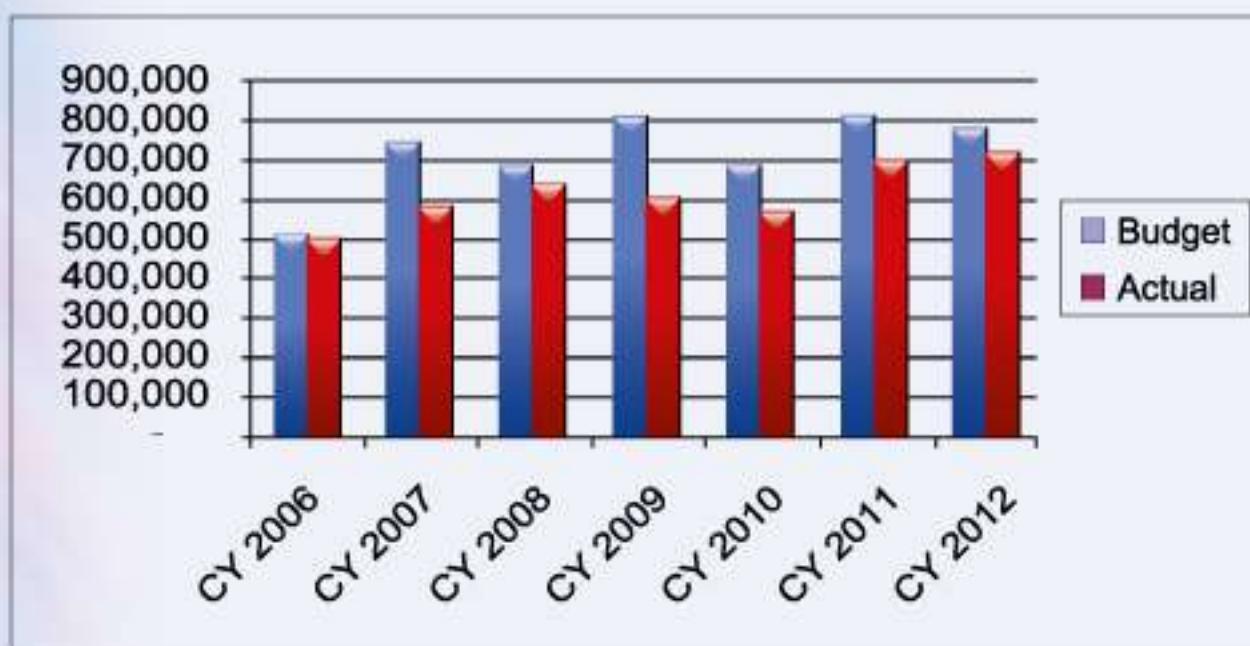
Sl #	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	635,972
2	Trust Fund	119,349
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	188,283
5	Special Reserve Fund	3,428
6	Reg. Co-ope Fund (RCF)	200,470
	Total	1,277,819



CIRDAP General Fund

Amount in US\$

	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012
Budget	513,323	742,692	685,425	810,568	685,425	810,568	771,811
Actual	498,763	583,873	640,328	608,325	570,392	690,967	722,698



CIRDAP
General Fund (GF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended on 31 December 2012

Account Code	Income	2012	2010-2011
		Amount in US\$	16th Biennium Amount in US\$
20100	Openin Balance of Fund	649,547.21	482,103.07
	Add : Assets retained from DRF	-	89,935.67
		649,547.21	572,038.74
20400	Temporary Loan from DRF	-	
	Less : Refund	-	
70101	CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	643,109.48	1,232,840.58
70200	Miscellaneous Income	66,013.10	106,026.40
	Total Income	1,358,669.79	1,910,905.72
Code	Expenditure		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	180,930.95	281,379.47
80102	General Staff Salary	190,823.53	312,482.32
80104	General Staff Overtime	2,138.29	4,707.09
	Sub Total	373,892.77	598,568.88
80200	Common Staff Cost	95,710.41	144,686.24
80300	Official Travels	74,576.80	143,901.54
80400	External Audit	3,570.00	6,700.00
80600	General Operating Expenses	166,259.71	350,096.92
80700	Supplies and Materials	8,688.26	17,404.93
80800	Acquisition of Assets	-	-
	Total Expenses	722,697.95	1,261,358.51
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	635,971.84	649,547.21

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


Finance Officer
Dhaka, December 31, 2012


In-Charge Finance
Dhaka, December 31, 2012


Director General
Dhaka, December 31, 2012

CIRDAP
Trust Fund (TF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended on 31 December 2012

<i>Account Code</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>
		<i>Amount in US\$</i>	<i>16th Biennium Amount in US\$</i>
20200	Opening Balance of Fund	177,338.48	173,257.35
20200	Allocation From Special Reserve Fund	-	25,871.94
70303	Contribution Received From others	61,985.04	17,070.53
70303	Contributions of JAPAN through LGRD	-	185,600.00
70303	Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	60,798.00	72,643.76
		122,783.04	275,314.29
	Total Income	300,121.52	474,443.58
	Expenditure		
90100	Research Projects	-	204,677.68
90200	Pilot Projects	9,051.86	1,634.68
90300	Training Projects	90,521.79	64,920.80
90400	Doc. & Information Projects	25,913.63	25,871.94
10102	Donor Agency Contribution Refund	55,285.70	-
	Total Expenses	180,772.98	297,105.10
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)	119,348.54	177,338.48

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



Finance Officer
Dhaka, December 31, 2012



In-Charge Finance
Dhaka, December 31, 2012



Director General
Dhaka, December 31, 2012

CIRDAP
Consolidated Assets and Liabilities (S/AL)
Final Accounts as on December 31, 2012

Account Code	Assets	2012	Notes	2010-2011
		Amount in US\$		16 th Biennium Amount in US\$
40100	Cash in Hand	1,158.85		8,085.43
40200	Cash in Banks	106,573.76	1	286,024.78
40300	Investment in Banks	773,638.19	1.A	668,542.95
40000	Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks	881,370.80		962,653.16
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	371,533.70	2	296,802.70
40402	Advance to Staff	13,557.58	4	7,813.65
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	5,079.58	5	3,623.30
40000	Subtotal of Receivables	390,170.86		308,239.65
80801-03	Fixed Assets	15,414.87	3	20,000.85
80005	Asset - auditorium/conference room	3,682.29	3	8,878.20
80006	asset purchased from project account	6,652.85	3	9,628.13
80007	asset purchased from DRF	42,690.11	3	60,834.08
80000	Subtotal of Fixed Assets	68,440.12		99,341.26
	Total Assets	1,339,981.78		1,370,234.07
	Liabilities and Net Assets			
10101	Advance Contributio Received	47,580.00		51,480.00
10102	Other Accounts Payable	14,583.06	6	13,266.13
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	-		-
	Sub Total of Total Liabilities	62,163.06		64,746.13
	Net Assets			
20100	General Fund (GF)	635,971.84		649,547.21
80000	Fixed Assets	-		-
	Subtotal of General Fund	635,971.84		649,547.21
20200	Trust Fund (TF)	119,348.54		177,338.48
20300	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317.00		130,317.00
20400	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	188,283.21		188,283.21
20500	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	3,428.09		3,425.63
20600	Reg. Co-ope Fund (RCF)	200,470.04		156,576.41
	Subtotal of Other Funds	641,846.88		655,940.73
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,339,981.78		1,370,234.07

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


Finance Officer

Dhaka, December 31, 2012


In-Charge Finance

Dhaka, December 31, 2012


Director General

Dhaka, December 31, 2012

Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia



Review of the Activities

During the period SOCSEA participated and support various programme activities, namely-

Signed MoU Between CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC

During the Regional Training Programme on Result Based Management Performance Indicators: Monitoring Evaluation and the visit of Director General, CIRDAP to Indonesia, SOCSEA took necessary steps for the possible signing of a MoU between CIRDAP and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC). Director General CIRDAP and Director Training CIRDAP held a meeting with Director NAM CSSTC in Jakarta to discuss the extension of the MoU and the programme to be undertaken in the future. As a result, Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General CIRDAP has signed the MoU with the Ms. Linggawaty Hakim, Director NAM CSSTC for cooperation in the fields of rural development and poverty alleviation. The signing ceremony was held on 7 March 2013 at the NAM CSSTC building in Jakarta.



Training Programme on Renewable Biogas Energy for Community Development

CIRDAP facilitated two participants from Bangladesh who attended the International Training Programme on Renewable Biogas Energy for Community Development held on 22-29 October 2013 in Solo, Indonesia. The programme was organised by NAM CSSTC-ICCO.

International NGOs- Government of Indonesia Meeting

With the framework of facilitation and coordination of the cooperation between the Government of Indonesia e.g. Directorate General of Communities and Village Empowerment (DGCVE) and NGOs, the DGCVE organised a coordination meeting on October 2013 in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by representatives from DGCVE, Centre for Administration of Foreign Cooperation, MoHA, State Secretariat, SOCSEA and some Provincial and District Governments, NGOs, etc. The meeting aimed at discussing the role of NGOs in supporting the government's efforts and programme for empowering the rural community effectively.

CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-28)

SOCSEA has also participated in/and facilitated the holding of the Twenty Eighth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-28) in Jakarta on May 2013 and the Workshop on South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development.

International Training Programme on Result Based Management: Performance Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Training programme was held on 4-13 March 2013 in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia. The training workshop was jointly organised by the Government of India, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Government of Indonesia, Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment (DGCVE), Ministry of Home Affairs and CIRDAP. The training was attended by 21 participants representing 15 CIRDAP Member Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam). Resource persons were from the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) India, University of Gadjah Mada, Ministry of Communication & Information Republic of Indonesia and CIRDAP. Being the CIRDAP regional office in Jakarta, SOCSEA continue facilitating implementation of the programme.



CIRDAP Staff Profile

Directorial and Professional Staff of CIRDAP



Dr. Cecep Effendi, Indonesia

Masters in School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India;
Ph.D. in School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India]
Email: dgcirdap@cirdap.org

Director General

Dr. Cecep Effendi has fifteen years' experience both as an activist and an academician in the area of decentralisation and democratisation. He was 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 a professional as well as an 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. Effendi served as a partner of the Asia Foundation in initiating a new reform for local government, programme manager of decentralisation of UNDP and Senior Advisor of the 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 the German International Cooperation for Decentralisation as Contribution to Good Governance in the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as Member of the Advisory Group for Indonesia's Provincial Government Association. He was recipient of American Political Science Congressional Fellow to serve in the Sub-Commission on Asia and the Pacific, Commission of international Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington DC, USA and Parliamentary Internship Programme of the House of Representatives in Ottawa, Canada. As an academician, he also served the 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. Dr. Effendi has assumed the position of Director General of CIRDAP from 6 July 2012.



Mr. Hossein Shabbaz, Iran

[Masters in Natural Resources, Tehran University]
Email: hshabbaz@cirdap.org; ppd@cirdap.org

Director, Pilot Projects Division and Director a.i. Research 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 the country for running a pilot

project sharing with UNIDO to reduce post-harvest fruit and vegetable wastes on farmlands by training how to use drying technology. Accordingly, he had a close 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 the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, in the offices which are basically involved in 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 of 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 Organization (APO), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), and NIRD. He is an UNIDO qualified auditor of Industrial Clusters development projects running by CDA (Cluster Development Agent).

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. Hossein Shahbaz has joined CIRDAP in March 2009.



Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, India

[Masters in Economics, University of Madras, India,

Ph.D in Economics, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India; Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Communication, BVB, India]

E-mail: vasanthi@cirdap.org; vasanthi1359@gmail.com

Director, Information & Communication Division and Director a.i Training 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.



Major Muhammad Mahbub Alam(Retd), Bangladesh
 [MBA, American International University, Bangladesh;
 Bachelor of Science, University of Chittagong;
 Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management, Dhaka University]
 E-mail: mahbub897@cirdap.org

Head, Administration & Finance

Major Muhammad Mahbub Alam(Retd) joined Bangladesh Army in 1985 and was commissioned in 1987.

During his 23 years of military career he served in a number of units which were tasked to perform different army and national level assignments. He led the National ID Card and Voter List preparation project organised by Bangladesh Election Commission and UNDP of Sunamganj district in 2007. He served in prestigious appointments in the Head Quarters of Bangladesh Army and Army Security Organization. During the service he underwent 10(ten) professional courses/diploma at home and abroad. He worked as a United Nations peacekeeper in Somalia, Kuwait and Ivory Coast. He had a brief stint in export oriented Opex & Sinha Industries as General Manager (Administration, Human Resource and Compliance). Major Mahbub joined CIRDAP on 11 July 2013.



Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Bangladesh
 [Masters in Statistics, Dhaka University]
 Email: srahman@cirdap.org

Assistant Programme Officer

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



Mr. David Hilton, Bangladesh
 [B.S.S. (Hons.), M.S.S. in Govt. & Politics, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh,
 M.S in Economic Development, Eastern University, USA]
 Email: dhilton@cirdap.org

Assistant Programme Officer

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he served as a 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. He has experience as a facilitator in Participatory Project Cycle Management and PRA exercises both at home and abroad. He also participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. Mr. David has joined CIRDAP in March 1998.



Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh
[MBA (Finance)-East West University,
M.Com (Acct.), CA (cc)]
Email: shahadat@cirdap.org

Finance Officer

Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain has joined CIRDAP as a Finance Officer on 15 April 2008. Previously he worked in a multinational organisation named Asian Consumer Care (Pvt) Ltd (A joint venture of Dabur International & ACI Ltd), ACI Center, 245 Tejgaon Dhaka-1208. He also worked at PRAN-RFL group as a Assistant Manager(Accounts & Fund Management). PRAN-RFL group is one of the largest Local Food manufacturing company in Bangladesh. His total job experience in Accounts & Finance section is of 12 years. He has intensive experience on budgeting, financial planning and reporting, ratio analysis, fund management, company law.



Engr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Bangladesh
[MBA (MIS), Prime University
M. Sc in Computer Science & Engg. (DIU),
B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engg. (DUET)]
Email: hasnat@cirdap.org

Computer Programmer

Mr. Md. Waliul Hasnat joined CIRDAP as a Computer Programmer on 14 August 2008. 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 intuitions/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 (PPR03). He has participated in several seminars, workshops and training programmes at national and international level.



Mr. Safiul Azam, Bangladesh

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

Email: sazam@cirdap.org

Assistant Protocol Officer

Safiul Azam is currently the Assistant Protocol Officer of CIRDAP. He has over twenty two years' experience in the field of administration in CIRDAP. His experience is in coordination and management of personnel, maintenance and general office management. He assists in arranging seminars and workshops and GC/EC and TC meetings; works towards promoting close relation of CIRDAP with other agencies, centres and institutions, both national and international; maintains liaison with the high commissions and embassies of CMCs in Dhaka; and assists in matters concerning personnel, procurement and general administration.



Dr. Usharani Boruah, India

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

Email: usharani@cirdap.org

Librarian

Dr. Usharani Boruah served as a Librarian in various organisations for more than 8 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. Boruah has vast experience in Library Development Education Programmes, Community Development Education Programme, Ethnic Development Education Programme through Library Education and Policy. Dr. Usharani Boruah joined CIRDAP in July 2007.

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. Akram Ullah	: Cashier
Mr. Deba Datta Chakma	: Secretary to DG
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. 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)
Ms. Fahima Binte Jamal	: Editorial Assistant
Mr. Md. Monir Hossain	: Electrician
Mr. Roman Khan	: Bearer
Ms. Parveen Begum	: Cook

Abbreviations & Acronyms

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