



Professional Profile

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General

Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)
(An Inter-Governmental and Autonomous Organization for strengthening Integrated Rural Development Systems in 15 Asia and Pacific Member Countries)

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- ❖ Leading Professional in the field of Rural Development and Agriculture with 35 years of experience and expertise in the areas namely Rural Development, Agricultural Extension Management, Agri-Entrepreneurship Development, Agricultural Marketing Management and Public-Private-Partnership.
- ❖ During more than three and half decades of service, headed three premier National Institutions in India which work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. He served as Director General of CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Director General (In-charge) of National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) and also served as Director General of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE). Currently heading Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), an Intergovernmental Organization working for Strengthening Rural Development System in the region based at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ As Chief Executive of these Institutions, led very important International and National schemes, programs and policy interventions for Rural Development and Agriculture through Training, Research, Consultancy, Policy Advocacy, Education, International Programmes, Implementation of Government Schemes, Agripreneurship Development, Agri. Startups Promotion, Documentation and Dissemination.
- ❖ **September' 2024 onwards: Director General, Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), (An Inter-Governmental and Autonomous Organization for strengthening Integrated Rural Development Systems in 15 Asia and Pacific Member Countries), DHAKA, BANGLADESH.**

- Initiated Research Programmes on Women and Youth Development in Iran, Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal.
- Initiated CIRDAP Knowledge Circuit, a Knowledge Exchange Platform among Rural Development Institutions of Asia and Pacific Countries.
- Chief Editor, Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD)
- Initiated International Publications on Rural Tourism, IRD Models, Disaster Management, Agri Value Chain Management, Climate Resilient Rural Development and Innovations on Rural Development.
- Organized International Training Programmes on Rural Tourism, Agri Co-operatives, Disaster Management, MSMEs in Rural Development.
- Initiated “Voice of CIRDAP” a monthly e-Bulletin which reaches 1.18 lakhs Stakeholders.

❖ **November 2020 to August 2024: Director General, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, India.**

- Trained 1114 Senior Executives from 20 African and Asian Countries as project leader under Feed the Future India Triangular Training (FTF-ITT) Programme funded by USAID.
- Project Leader of US – India – Africa Triangular Training Programme funded by USAID to train officials of Kenya, Liberia and Malawi.
- Key partner of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India for implementation of Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) Programmes covering more than 25 countries.
- Worked closely with Michigan State University, FAO, GIZ, AARDO, DEULA-Germany, ICRISAT, World Bank, IFAD, UNDP and part of more than 40 bilateral agreements.
- Established Michigan (MSU) – MANAGE Centre for Agricultural Development in African and Asian Regions at MANAGE, Hyderabad.
- Worked with 2000 Agri Startups through incubation, fund support and monitoring.
- Reached 1.46 lakh stakeholders annually through various capacity building programmes in partnership with 220 institutions.
- Trained more than 60,000 Rural Youth in Agripreneurship.
- Trained more than one lakh Input Dealers as Para Extension Professionals through DAESI programme.
- Established more than 40,000 Agriventures across the country under Agri clinics and Agribusiness Centres (AC&ABC) Scheme of Government of India.
- Trained 60,000 Krishi Sakhis in Natural Farming.
- Introduction of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) on Digital Platform.
- Completed 18 Research Studies, Action Research and Consultancy Projects.
- Established MANAGE FPO Academy
- Initiated SEVA-MANAGE- involving retired Agri. professionals in agricultural development
- Initiated National Network of Agri Journalists-MANAGE (NNAJ-MANAGE).
- Introduction of rewarding mechanism for Agri-start-ups, Agripreneurs, Agri. Film Makers, Academicians in Agricultural Extension.
- Krishi Gyan Deep Knowledge Lecture Series introduced to connect last mile extension workers with inspiring leaders.
- Initiated Jai Jawan Kisan for the introduction of ex-soldiers into Agriculture.
- Established MANAGE CSR Forum
- Strengthened MANAGE National Facilitators Development Programme

- Introduced Induction Training for newly recruited Agricultural Officers, Refresher Training, CEO Executive Development Programme, International Study Programme for Agribusiness Management Students.

❖ **January to March, 2021: Director General I/C, National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad, India**

- Established National Network of Plant Health Management Experts in India.
- Strengthened phytosanitary inspectors training by opening the sector for private participation.

❖ **April 2018 – October 2020: Director General, CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, India.**

- Established 10 Academic Centres
- Introduced Agri Start-up promotion program through RKVY-RAFTAAR
- Successfully organised partnership research projects and training programmes
- Introduced Research Internship Programme
- Introduced National Facilitators Development Programme
- Initiated Induction Training Programmes
- Strengthened Agri-Business Management education programme
- Reintroduced modified Kisan Business School concept
- Initiated CCS-NIAM Krishi Gyandeeep Knowledge Lecture Series
- Massive expansion of NIAM partnership activities

❖ **September 2007 – March 2018: Director (Agricultural Extension), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.** Responsible for carrying out Policy Advocacy, Training, Research, Consultancy, Education, Documentation and Dissemination in the field of Agricultural Extension Management. Director (Agricultural Extension) was also heading three other following Centres in MANAGE.

- Director, MANAGE Centre for Agricultural Extension Policy, Public Private Partnership and International Centre for Excellence in Agricultural Extension Management.
- Director, Program Management Unit (PMU), Feed the Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT), MANAGE.
- Founder Director of Centre for Agri-Entrepreneurship Development (CAD)

❖ **September 1999 – September 2007: Deputy Director (Agricultural Extension) at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, India.**

- ❖ **May 1990 – September 1999: Junior Liaison Officer (Manpower Development), Coffee Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.**
- ❖ Published 81 Technical papers including 25 books.

❖ **Affiliation with Committees/ Professional Bodies/Institutions / Societies - 37**

1. Member, Hon'ble Prime Minister Committee to promote Zero Budget Based Farming, Cropping Pattern and MSP – Gazette Notification S.O. 3211(E) – 2022, Government of India.

2. Jury, UN Food Systems Summit SME Competition, 2021.
3. Member, Advisory Committee, Agricultural Extension Platform for South Asia (AEPSA).
4. Member, Agri-Startup Advisory Group (AAG), constituted by Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2022.
5. Member, Advisory Committee for promotion of Natural Farming, constituted by Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2022.
6. Member, Committee for Development and Digital Agriculture, Education Portal and Mobile App. constituted by Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2022.
7. Member, Committee to finalize the criteria for Krishi Sakhi as Para Extension Professionals, constituted by Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2023.
8. Member, Review of functioning of KVKs and recommendations for improvement constituted by Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2023.
9. Member, Core Committee cum Joint Working Group of Extension, constituted by Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2023.
10. Member, Committee to develop modalities for implementation of Accelerator Fund for Agri. Startups Programme of Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2023.
11. Representative of MoA&FW, Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI in the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Orientation of V.V.Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, 2023
12. Chairman, Screening Committee-CSIR National Award for Science & Technology Innovations, 2020-2021.
13. National Chairman, Third Internal Conference of Dept. of Extension Education, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) 2023
14. Member of Research Advisory Committee of DY Patil Agriculture & Technical University, Talsandi, Kolhapur.
15. Member, International Advisory Committee. International Conference on Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh, 2023.
16. Member, Agricultural Extension Group constituted by Inter-Ministerial Committee on Doubling Farmers Income, Govt. of India.
17. Member, Joint Working Group of India-Indonesia on Agriculture.
18. Member, High Power Committee for evaluating the performance of Agricultural Universities in Karnataka, India.
19. Vice President, International Society of Extension Education (INSEE).
20. Member, Sub-Group on Agricultural Extension constituted by Planning Commission of India to work on 11th and 12th Plan Approach Paper.
21. Member, Sub-Group on Decentralized Planning in Agriculture constituted by Planning Commission of India to work on 12th Plan Approach Paper.
22. Member, Sixth Evaluation Committee of Coffee Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.

23. Member, Board of Directors, India Certified Crop Adviser Program (ICCA) initiated by American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).
24. Member, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Committee on ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture).
25. Country Focal Point for India of Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) under Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).
26. Life member, International Extension Forum.
27. Life member, International Extension Education Society.
28. Life member, Institute of Agriculture Technologies (India).
29. Advisor, Agripreneurs Association of India.
30. Founder Member, CAAM (Centre for Alternative Agriculture Media), An International body of professionals working for innovations in Agriculture Extension.
31. Executive Councilor of Indian Society of Extension Professionals.
32. Expert member, Internal Research Committee (IRC), Directorate of Oil Seeds (DOR), ICAR, Hyderabad.
33. Member, Faculty Board of Agriculture, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Hyderabad, 2013.
34. Member, Technical Advisory Committee of Central Institute of Horticulture, DAC, MoA, Nagaland.
35. Life member of International Society of Extension Education.
36. Advisor, Bio-Agri Inputs Producers Association (BIPA), India.
37. Advisor, Executive Body, SEP, EEI Campus, PJTSAU, Hyderabad (2023)

❖ Awards:

1. Awarded **Society of Extension Education (SEE) Fellow Award** in the International Extension Education Congress-2023 organized by society Extension Education, Agra held at RARI (SKNAU), Jobner, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan during 18-20 December, 2023.
2. Awarded **Extension Leadership Award** in the International Extension Education Conference 2023 (IEEC 2023) on “Innovative Agriculture Extension for Food, Sustainability and Environmental Security” organized by Dept. of Extension Education, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi during 27-30 January, 2023
3. Awarded Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) **Fellowship Award 2021**
4. Received NITTE-Karnataka Bank Limited **Life Time Achievement Award 2019** for driving Agri-entrepreneurship Movement in India.
5. Awarded **Dewang Mehta Education Leadership Award – 2019**.
6. Honoured with **Award of Excellence** during the conference International Conference on “Doubling of Farmers Income of SAARC Countries” held at Kathmandu, Nepal during 19th 23rd September 2018 organized by International Society of Extension Education (INSEE).
7. Received **Life Time Achievement Award-2019** from SRDA in Agricultural Extension.
8. Awarded **Dr. D K Mishra Memorial Award** instituted by Indian Society of Extension Education. The award was conferred on 7th November, 2015 at Golden

Jubilee National Seminar organized at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi for contribution in Agricultural Extension.

9. Nominated as **Country Focal Point for India** during First AESA Workshop on “Strengthening Extension and Advisory System in South Asia” during 14-15 January, 2014 in which 30 Delegates from 8 countries have participated in Kathmandu, Nepal. Currently member of Governance Group of Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAS).
10. Received **Special Appreciation Award** from International Society of Extension Education during International Conference on “Extension Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture” held at UAS, Bangalore during 5th-8th December, 2013.
11. **Magnum National Honour Award-2011** conferred by Magnum Foundation, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
12. **Young Scientist Award-2006** conferred by Indian Society of Extension Education, New Delhi.
13. Recognized as **National Extension Expert** by Indian Coffee Board for a FAO sponsored project.
14. Awarded **Kannada Kanteerava** by Kannada Welfare Society, Hyderabad on the eve of “Kannada Rajyosthava”-2016 on 27th November, 2016.
15. Research paper on Coffee Extension Management won Travel Grants Award at the International Seminar on Agricultural Extension held at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka during 1999.
16. Awarded **three Gold Medals for Ph.D.** thesis on Coffee Extension Management from University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore 1999.
17. Topper of M.Sc. (Agriculture Extension) batch of 1987-89, University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore.

❖ **Country Visited:**

- USA, Kenya, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Israel, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Maldives, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malaysia and Iran.

❖ **Educational Qualifications:**

- Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension awarded from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore in 1999 with Three Gold Medals.
- Post-Graduate Degree – M.Sc. in Agricultural Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore in 1989 and topped 1987-89 batch.
- Bachelor’s Degree – B.Sc., (Agriculture) from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore in 1987.