



CIRDAP REPORT 2002



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

CIRDAP

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

From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up to 13 member states, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh (host country), India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP are to:

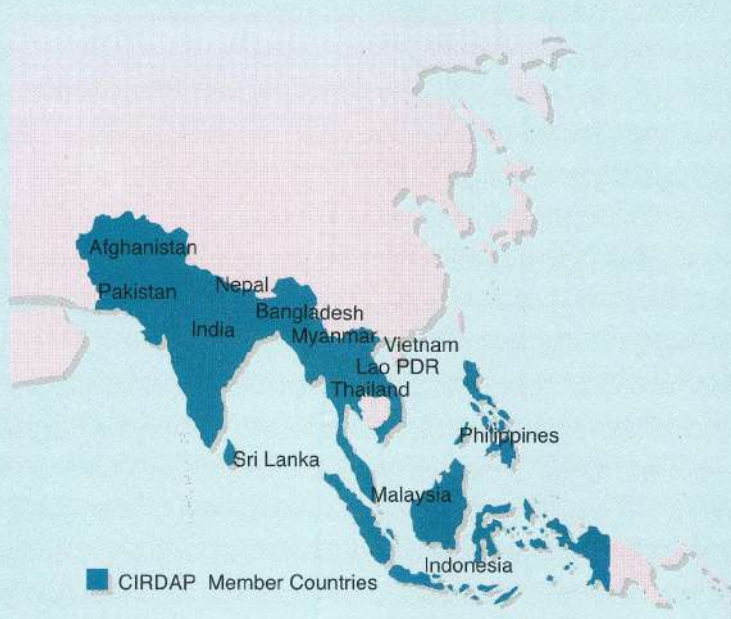
- (i) assist national action,
- (ii) promote regional cooperation, and
- (ii) act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion of integrated rural development through research, action research/pilot projects, training, and information dissemination.

Amelioration of rural poverty in the Asia-Pacific Region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP. The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four areas of concern: (1) agrarian development; (2) institutional/infrastructure development; (3) resource development including human resources; and (4) employment.

Operating through contact ministries and link institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes technical cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

Vision

Prosperous rural communities enjoying improved living conditions as a result of collaborative efforts of CMCs working together and learning from each other.



Mission

CIRDAP is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate the provision of services that will influence policy formulation and programme action towards rural development and poverty alleviation through a network of CIRDAP contact ministries and link institutions.

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Asia and the Pacific**

Contents

DG's Review	3
Policy Body Meetings	10
Research	13
Pilot Projects	17
Training	21
Information and Communication	29
Some Success Stories in CMCs	33
Administration and Finance	38
CIRDAP Agenda for 2002-2007	41
Staff Profile	45
Abbreviation & Acronym	49
Selected Socioeconomic Indicators of CMCs	50

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CIRDAP enters into a New Phase



During the year 2002, the first year of our Third Six-Year Plan, we have started journey from planning to action. We have thoroughly discussed and documented every detail of the Plan and got support from all three policy-making bodies—the Technical Committee, the Executive Committee and the Governing Council.

CIRDAP Third Six-Year Plan (CSYP-3) embodies the Centre's vision and action plan for '2002-2007' period. It reflects on the Centre's continuing commitment to assist national and regional actions in alleviating rural poverty.

In this six-year period, CIRDAP will continue its efforts to address the priority areas of concern, namely, agrarian development, institutional and infrastructure development, resource development including human resources and employment.

Six thematic areas have also been identified which constitute the thrust areas and programme strategies. These are: poverty

alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector (e.g. health, education and nutrition) development; employment generation through microcredit support infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; GO-NGO collaboration; gender issues; governance issues; and environmental concerns in sustainable rural development.

With the responsibility entrusted to the Centre, CIRDAP remains committed to the cause given in the mandate. However, due to scarcity of its resources, a rethinking of the approach and strategies is imperative. This involves focusing and sharpening of the Centre programmes and activities to make them more effective and at the same time, responsive to the needs of the member countries.

Targets of the CSYP-3 (2002-2007)

The following are some of the targets that have been set for this new phase:

General Targets

- Holding at least one regional seminar/conference/workshop every year in different CMCs;
- Increasing the number of CMCs by adding minimum two new members, of which at least one should be from the Pacific islands;
- Each of the CIRDAP programme divisions, i.e. Research, Pilot Projects, Training, and Information and Communication Divisions, should have at least two projects every year; and
- Reallocating yearly at least five per cent of the CIRDAP General Fund budget for Trust Fund to initiate some projects by the programme divisions.

Division-wise Targets

Research

- Implementing at least one research project in each CMC; and
- Continuing to publish CIRDAP biennial Rural Development Report.

Pilot Projects

- Implementing at least one project in each CMC; and
- Reducing the absolute poverty level by at least 30 per cent in the case of project beneficiaries.

Training

- Conducting at least two regular regional courses for rural development functionaries from CMCs every year; and
- Assisting every CMC in conducting at least one in-country training course every year.

Information and Communication

- Providing information outlets by setting up a CIRDAP Corner in each CMC;
- Developing a database on rural development and poverty alleviation programmes;
- Continuing to update directory of Rural Development Institutions; and
- Continuing to update directory of experts.

Performance during Second Six-Year Plan

During the Second CIRDAP Six-Year Plan (CSYP-2) - 1996-2001, the Centre identified the following four themes for its programme strategies: (i) macroeconomic policy issues in poverty alleviation; (ii) participatory approaches to employment generation, credit provision of infrastructure and local resource mobilisation; (iii) gender issues; and (iv) environmental concerns for sustainable rural development including disaster management.

During the period, two important reorganisations were done in the divisional aspects of CIRDAP: (i) The Documentation and Information Division has been reconstituted as Information and Communication Division (ICD); and (ii) the Action Research Division was renamed as Pilot Projects Division (PPD).

CIRDAP programme activities were conducted through four major divisions: (i) Research, (2)

Pilot Projects, (3) Training, and (4) Information and Communication.

Research

CIRDAP research studies focused on the dynamics of the socioeconomic changes in the rural societies with a concern for the rural poor.

The major aims of the research projects were to identify and analyse the causal factors affecting the rural disadvantaged groups, provide guidelines to policy-makers, and formulate follow-up activities leading to further action research, pilot projects and training.

These attempted to promote symbiotic relationship with action research within the Research Division and three other programme divisions of the Centre and also facilitate policy making, planning and implementing rural development programmes/projects in the CMCs through the use of research findings.

Pilot Projects

From the very inception, CIRDAP remained wedded to the participatory philosophy and evolved the Community Information and Planning System (CIPS), a participatory methodology for rural and community development.

The CIPS is a process through which the community makes decisions and is involved in planning, organising, financing,

implementing and evaluating activities designed for socioeconomic improvement.

Following the participatory approach, CIRDAP Pilot Projects Division developed the CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD) methodology. Under the approach, the Project Cycle Management (PCM) was combined with CIPS to enable the beneficiaries to have effective control over the project activities.

Training

CIRDAP in its training activities adopted strategies of creating critical mass of development functionaries able to engage the rural people as partners and beneficiaries of the development process.

CIRDAP training programmes were organised in different ways: short duration international programmes, study visits, tailor-made and attachment programmes, workshops and seminars. The training modalities were prepared to meet the various training requirements of CMCs and other countries requesting CIRDAP's services.

During the past few years, CIRDAP training activities were conducted in the following key areas: (i) Participatory Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects; (ii) Microfinance; (iii) Disaster Reduction and Sustainable Development; (iv) Gender and

Development; (v) Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects; (vi) Environment and Rural Development; (vii) Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects; (viii) Training Methodology for Trainers of IRD functionaries; (ix) PopMap Application; and (x) Small Business Development.

Information and Communication

The Information and Communication Division had the following functional areas of work: (i) information resource development; (ii) information exchange dissemination; (iii) communication and public relations; (iv) implementation of information and rural communication projects.

The contributions of the division during the last few years were as follows: Harnessing the Potential of Information Technology; Documentation of Success Stories in Rural Development in CMCs: Women's Information Network (WIN) Project; and Rural

Development Communications Network (RDCN).

During the CSYP-2, CIRDAP projects were designed and implemented keeping in mind its mandate and programme priorities and shift in the concept of rural development. CIRDAP implemented a total of 84 projects spread over research/action research, pilot projects, training and documentation as shown in the graph.

Self-Assessment Exercise

In 1996 CIRDAP adopted a different approach to assess organisational performance. The evaluation involved self-assessment by those who belong to the organisation itself (insiders) rather than external evaluators.

The self-assessment exercise was supported by IDRC, and technical assistance was provided by the Universal Management Group (UMG), Canada and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) of the Philippines.

It adopted the internal systematic approach to monitor and evaluate institutional capacity and performance with strategic planning through the participation of personnel and key stakeholders of the organisation.

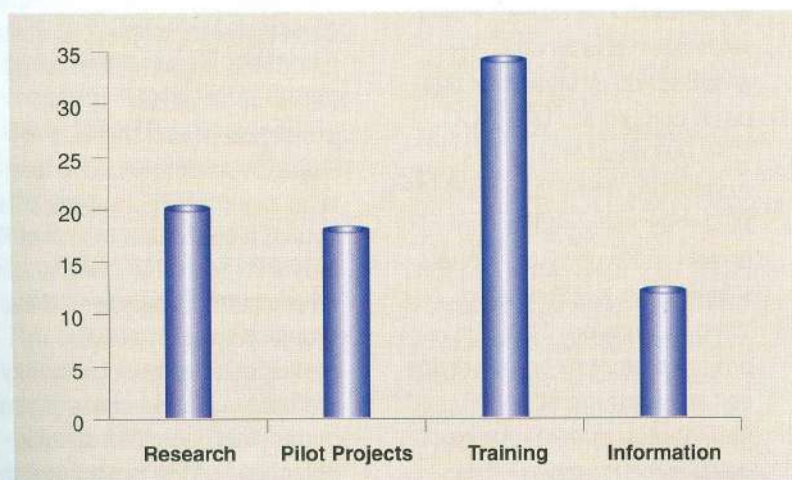
The exercise provided the following outputs: clarification of the Centre's major stakeholders and their relationship with CIRDAP, formulation of its vision and mission statement, formulation of objectives, strategies and programmes, and development of performance indicators for the Centre. A report was thus brought out, reflecting the outcome.

Projects/Programmes in 2002

The major Research activities were:

Promotion of Household Food Security: The project analysed the potentialities of rain-fed agricultural system towards household food security. The major objectives were to identify innovative rain-fed agricultural practices and to suggest measures to replicate efficient and sustainable technologies/practices for the common benefit of the countries in the region. The study was conducted in Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Asian Financial Crisis and South Asia: The project identified the dynamics and linkages of the Asian financial crisis and their impact on South Asia. It also examined the



Project performance during Second Six-Year Plan

results of the policies and other measures undertaken by the countries in response to the crisis. Based on the lessons and findings, the study suggested appropriate measures in future policy making. The study was conducted in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Appropriate Technology for

Rural Women: The project is to identify, disseminate and field-test appropriate technologies towards reducing drudgery, making women's work productive and income and employment generation for rural women in two CMCs. The action research is being conducted in Myanmar and Pakistan.

Report on Rural Development:

It is a regular activity of the Centre to publish periodic report on RD policies and strategies adopted and implemented in the CMCs. The results of the implementation of these policies are also analysed.

Food Price Structure Study in

South Asia: CIRDAP has started the project on *Food Price Structure Study in Selected Countries in South Asia* with support from the Consumers International, Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific (CI ROAP), based in Malaysia. The project covers four CMCs, namely, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The general objective of the study is to increase understanding of the underlying dynamics and the crosscutting

linkages of the food market in Asia. A major concern of the project is to examine the efficacy and adequacy of the policy and other adopted measures of the countries in response to the growing demand of staple food and, to identify appropriate concerns in future policy making.

Rural Development Case

Study: UNDP South Africa commissioned CIRDAP to conduct the *Case Study on Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Experiment in CIRDAP Member Countries*. The focus of the Case Study was on issues around local and community-driven approaches to rural development with strong emphasis on poverty alleviation. The emphasis was also given on cross-sectoral planning, budgeting and integration of government service delivery at the local level.

The major Pilot Projects activities were:

Poverty Alleviation in

Myanmar: The project *Poverty Alleviation and Social Mobilisation* in Myanmar has been completed. UNESCO, CIRDAP and Ministry of Agriculture and Planning (MAP), Myanmar initiated the joint pilot project in Kwun Gyan Kone Village, Taik Kyi Township, Yangon Division. The pilot project sought to empower the self-help groups of poor households to take charge of development process that affects their lives.

Collaborative Project in India:

UNESCO, CIRDAP and NIRD, Hyderabad, India have jointly taken up the pilot project *Poverty Alleviation and Social Mobilisation* in one village at Keshampet Mandal, Andhra Pradesh. The methodology proposed for the programme has been field-tested as a participatory development methodology over a wide range of activities such as development of fishing communities, social forestry, and integration of basic needs and ecological resources. The integrated approach takes into account several dimensions (technical, financial, economic, social, institutional and ecological) of the programme activities. Building of local capabilities for self-management and self-reliant activities has been considered as a major goal of the project.

Capacity Building of People's

Organisations: CIRDAP has initiated a pilot project *Capacity Building of People's Organisations under MVRD* in collaboration with the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Kotbari, Comilla. It is being implemented as a follow-up of earlier CIRDAP project on Model Villages in Rural Development. The long-term objective of the project is to evolve a replicable model of RD that is expected to bring about an overall improvement of the villagers through active participation of the community themselves in the entire process of development. The specific objectives of the project are to: (i) build an institutional set-up (ii)

promote skill training to the target beneficiaries (iii) undertake kitchen-gardening activities in the project area.

Support to Model Village:

CIRDAP started the project *Model Village in Rural Development* with the financial support of the Government of Japan. The objective of this experimental project was to develop a model framework for uplifting the socioeconomic condition of the rural people. This project was launched to find out the best way to improve the standard of living of the rural poor. In Bangladesh, two academies - Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla and Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra were involved in implementing the project. RDA had selected Magurgari as an experimental village.

The major Training programmes were:

Governance, Partnership and Poverty:

The Commonwealth Secretariat has been a long-time partner of CIRDAP in its training activities. The subject of governance is one common concern for the Centre and the Secretariat. The Regional Workshop on *Governance, Partnership and Poverty* was organised from 14 to 17 December 2002 at CIRDAP headquarters in Bangladesh. The Secretariat sponsored the programme while the Centre implemented it. The issue of governance has a vast effect on development and poverty alleviation, two areas in which

the activities of CIRDAP and the Secretariat are significantly anchored. The report of the workshop is being published.

Training in Myanmar:

CIRDAP has organised an In-Country Training course on *Training Methodologies and Management* between 18-21 February 2002 in Myanmar. Thirty-two officers, of whom half were women, from different departments and different parts of the country participated in the programme.

Small Business Development in Vietnam:

The In-Country Training programme with the financial and technical support of CIRDAP was organised at MARD Office, Hanoi during 7-9 May 2002. The course was on *Small Business Development* and attended by 30 participants from various regions/offices of the country. It covered aspects of small business development like technology, marketing, extension and entrepreneurship development.

Participatory Techniques in Sri Lanka:

The training programme on *Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural/Community Development Projects* was conducted between 22 and 24 May 2002 at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Colombo. This was a joint training programme of HARTI and CIRDAP. The objectives of the programme were: To enhance participants' knowledge about the concepts and methods used in

participatory planning and management of the programmes; and to develop skill of the participants in using participatory techniques such as RRA/PRA and PCM in planning and managing the projects.

Empowerment of Women in Indonesia:

The Seminar on *Empowerment of Rural Women in Enhancing Community Income through Small and Medium Enterprises* was held on 24 June 2002 in Indonesia. The seminar was organised by SOCSEA in collaboration with the Office of Industry and Trade of the Special Province of Yogyakarta. The seminar was attended by 80 participants, majority of whom were women. The representatives of various women organisations, academic circles and NGOs participated in the seminar.

Prospect of Village in Indonesia:

The Seminar on the *Prospect of Village Enterprise as Advancing Engine of Village Economic Growth towards Sustainable Development* was held on 30 July 2002 in Jakarta. SOCSEA organised the seminar in collaboration with the Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs as CIRDAP Link Institution in Indonesia. The seminar was attended by officials from various government institutions, and representatives of universities, donor agencies/international organisations and NGOs.

Beneficiary Research in Philippines:

An In-country

Training on Beneficiary Research, Social Product Development and Marketing was held in the Philippines for DAR field personnel and BARBD staff. Among the objectives of the programme were to: identify appropriate beneficiary research strategies and protocols as requisites to social product development; assess the social product development and marketing requirements as input to project development and product distribution; and explain the links between beneficiary needs and the success of programme interventions along social, cultural and economic dimensions.

Computerised Documentation in Pakistan: The training course on *Use and Application of Computerised Documentation System* was held in Islamabad during 30 September-5 October 2002. The training course aimed at providing information personnel with an opportunity to develop an appreciation of the potential use of new information technology and to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to automate information-related activities.

Microcredit Courses for India & Sri Lanka: CIRDAP Training Division organised four Training-cum-Exposure Visit programmes during the year to help the officials from different organisations in India and Sri Lanka to gain experience on microcredit activities in Bangladesh. The officials had classroom sessions where experts briefed the delegates

about the microcredit operation in Bangladesh. To sharpen the knowledge of the participants, field visits were organised to the beneficiary sites, where the delegates had interactions with the clientele of the microcredit institutions and various women self-help groups in the villages.

The major ICD activities were:

Dissemination of IRD

Information: The activities of the programme divisions of CIRDAP generate rural development information important for the rural development practitioners. ICD disseminates this information along with the regional and cross-country data on rural development and relevant issues through regular and periodic publications and other information services like library and online services. The main publications of CIRDAP are the Study Series, Action Research Series, Training Series, Journal, and Development Digest. ICD also maintains a database of mailing list for effective dissemination of IRD information including those generated through the programmes and projects of the Centre.

Library Services and

Bibliographic Database: The fully automated library of CIRDAP serves as a resource centre and a data bank. It has a holding of 17,450 books, and it receives about 250 journals through exchange and subscription. Institutional documents such as books, monographs, journals, brochures, programme

literature, reports of research studies, technical notes and series, proceedings of conferences, seminars and workshops are constantly added to its resources. Computerised bibliographic database is continuously updated to facilitate easy access to current literature on IRD and poverty alleviation. Internet sites are also being used for information on various subjects.

Greater Deployment of

Information Technology: The CIRDAP website contains information about the Centre's programmes and projects, publications and forthcoming events such as training courses, workshops, seminars, etc. Current news and press releases are also regularly posted on the website. Links with CIRDAP Link Institutions and Contact Ministries have been established to access country-specific information. The website offers e-commerce facilities to make CIRDAP publications available through the Internet. Complete list of publications and abstracts of recent publications have been uploaded on the site. Some recent publications are available in CD-ROM format.

Development Support Com. through AV Media:

The member countries have been requested to supply secondary/available footage to CIRDAP to facilitate updating the CIRDAP Audio-Visual, and two countries have supplied the footage in required format. In 2002, *Learning from Success*, a training video of Asian

Productivity Organisation, produced by CIRDAP on Organisation Study Mission, came out, and copies were distributed to the CMCs.

Documenting Success

Stories: The project of *Information Sharing and Dissemination of Rural Development Success Stories* has been reorganised to publish available success stories on various aspects of rural development provided by the CIRDAP Link Institutions. In order to facilitate wider replication of country-specific achievements in rural development, case studies on various success stories and cross-country experiences will be documented under the project.

WINISIS and WebPage: Two training courses on *Use and Application of WINISIS (Windows version of CDS/ISIS)* and *Basics of WebPage Development using HTML* were held in CIRDAP on 1-7 April 2002 and on 9-15 September 2002. CIRDAP has been organising training courses on CDS/ISIS since 1992. Over the years a number of library and information professionals were trained on CDS/ISIS application. These two courses stressed the potential use of new information technology and aimed to equip the participants with the skill and knowledge needed to automate information-related activities. The specific objectives of the courses were to: develop the participants' ability to create computerised bibliographic database using WINISIS;

develop computerised information dissemination services; and enhance cooperation and resource sharing among information personnel.

Future Vision

From the very beginning, the Centre has been trying to draw its plans/programmes, make strategies and put steps in such a way that it can help the member countries alleviate poverty. The CSYP-3 has also been chalked out the same way.

Based on the targets of the CSYP-3 and the role of CIRDAP in the region, CIRDAP also prepares some strategies for a long-term period (2008–2019). The strategies are as follows:

- Pursuing further organisational and institutional development of CIRDAP
- Implementation of pilot projects activities in larger scale in CMCs
- Expansion of training activities to cover all the member countries
- Continuing increasing the number of CMCs in the Asia-Pacific Region
- Expansion of linkage of CIRDAP with regional and world-wide rural development and poverty alleviation institutions
- Enhancing role of CIRDAP in policy advice on poverty

alleviation and sustainable rural development

- Assisting CMCs in attaining and sustaining higher economic growth and improved standard of living for the people in the rural areas of CMCs
- Building up organisational sustainability
- Developing CIRDAP into a prestigious international centre for rural development and poverty alleviation

We sincerely hope these plans/strategies will help CIRDAP materialise the vision of prosperous rural communities enjoying improved living conditions as a result of collaborative efforts of CMCs working together and learning from each other.



Dr. Mya Maung
Director General

Policy Body Meetings

In 2002 four policy body meetings of CIRDAP were held. The meetings were of GC-13, EC- 22 & 23, and TC-18.

GC-13

The Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-13 Meeting) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 17-18 January 2002. All CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) and the Acting Head of SOCSEA attended the meeting.

The GC-13 Meeting unanimously elected Nepal and Indonesia as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

Two major decisions were made at the meeting:

Decision 1

- Japan, IDRC (Canada), British Council (Dhaka), IFAD (Rome) and UNESCO Regional Office, Bangkok; and BIRD, Lucknow (India) and AIM (Philippines) be

requested to be the TC members for the twelfth biennium.

Decision 2

- Recommendations of the Sub-Committee Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council be placed before the EC-23 Meeting for consideration and recommendations of the EC-23 be submitted to GC-14.

EC-22 & 23

The Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-22 Meeting) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 14-15 January 2002, and the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-23 Meeting) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 28-29 October 2002.

All the CMCs and Acting Head of SOCSEA attended both the meetings. Secretary General, AARDO participated in the EC-23 Meeting as observer.

Nepal and Malaysia were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively of EC-22 while Malaysia and Indonesia became Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of EC-23 Meeting.

The following were the results of discussions and deliberations at the meetings:

Decision

- Prof. Yoshihiro Kaido, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan be appointed as a member of the Technical Committee in the capacity of IRD Expert for the twelfth biennium from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003.

Recommendations

- CIRDAP and CMCs should continue to explore the possibilities of getting funding support from as many donor agencies as possible.
- CIRDAP should critically examine its functioning in the past and make efforts to formulate long-term plan of activities by making proper assessment of the needs and requirements of the CMCs in the current environment as well as by mobilising the available resources. The project activities should provide tangible benefits to the CMCs.
- Many organisations, other than government bodies in the CMCs, have developed some best practices in the



Group photograph of the ministers and delegates attending the GC-13 Meeting along with Hon'able Prime Minister of HM's Government of Nepal

field of poverty alleviation and social development. CIRDAP should make effort to collaborate with these bodies and work as a forum for sharing such experiences for the benefit of the CMCs.

- CIRDAP should make efforts to find out the measures adopted by different countries in mitigating the problem of water pollution and disseminate those for the benefit of CMCs.
- In order to assess the benefit of its project activities to the stakeholders in the CMCs, CIRDAP should continue to conduct impact evaluation of its project activities on a regular basis.
- CIRDAP should explore the possible areas of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the rural areas of Afghanistan. It should also try to coordinate the CMCs efforts for rural development in Afghanistan.
- CIRDAP should pay special attention to the activities of SOCSEA.



Participants and delegates at the EC-22 Meeting

- To make the benefits of CIRDAP projects more visible and useful to the CMCs, CIRDAP may identify strategic projects in which CMCs can share expertise or share the cost of implementation.
- EC recommends to GC to delegate power to EC to approve projects recommended by the Technical Committee for the sake of early implementation. In the event that new projects are tied up with any other donor(s) after EC meeting, DG may go ahead with its

implementation subject to informing the next EC and GC meetings.

- For tapping the resources of the donors, CIRDAP and CLIs (CIRDAP Link Institutions) should identify specifically focused areas for long-term programme activities, and draw up perspective plans accordingly.
- CIRDAP should develop network on the areas of human resource development, small-scale enterprises, marketing, microcredit, cooperatives, etc. to disseminate cross-country experiences of the CMCs for the benefit and utilisation of the other member countries.
- The meeting of the Technical Committee should be held every year since it is the technical arm of CIRDAP for review of its programme activities for the past year and formulation of future plans and directions of research, pilot projects, training, and information and



Participants and delegates at the EC-23 Meeting



H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuyian, Minister for LGRD & Cooperatives, Bangladesh inaugurating the TC-18 Meeting as chief guest

communication. As the recommendations of EC meeting held in every year are submitted to the GC in every two years, the EC meeting can also be held in every two years, back to back with GC meeting.

TC-18

The Eighteenth Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-18 Meeting) was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 19-20 August 2002. The TC members from all the CMCs except Lao PDR attended the meeting. Other members from ESCAP, Bangkok; BIRD, Lucknow; IDRC, New Delhi; the British Council, Dhaka; and IRD Expert, Japan and observer from AARDO, New Delhi also took part in the meeting. The members elected India Chairperson of TC-18 Meeting.

The suggestions of the meeting were as follows:

- To accommodate cross-country experience and

regional focus, CIRDAP research and pilot projects should cover more CMCs in each project.

- To develop the skill of the project beneficiaries for uplifting their socioeconomic conditions, CIRDAP should undertake more capacity-building projects in its training and action-oriented programmes.
- CIRDAP should contact NABARD to explore the possibility of tapping the resources of NABARD to undertake collaborative projects in the field of microfinance, poverty alleviation and rural development.
- CIRDAP should continuously reorient and fine-tune its research and pilot projects to meet the changing priorities and needs of CMCs. Research results should either influence policies of CMCs or lead to application of new technologies and

practices, especially in the areas of poverty reduction and development of sustainable livelihood of rural communities.

- While implementing poverty alleviation projects, CIRDAP should explore the possibility of partnership, alliance building and networking with other organisations.
- CIRDAP should carry out in-depth study on successful projects in the CMCs to determine the typical rural development models.
- Since ecotechnologies provide useful tools for designing rural development projects, CIRDAP may consider initiating an Ecotechnology Network in collaboration with existing ones.
- CIRDAP should publish the success stories highlighting the factors contributing to the success of the programmes. CIRDAP should also pursue the matter at the policy bodies of the governments of the CMCs so that these factors would have policy effect.
- SOCSEA and BIRD would provide infrastructure facilities to CIRDAP to conduct seminar/workshop/conference at their respective headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia and Lucknow, India.
- CIRDAP should narrow down its areas of activities. TC and EC meetings can be held once in two years to tag with the GC meeting.

Research

Research

CIRDAP, since its establishment in 1979, has consistently focussed on supporting the national actions through multifaceted project activities in the member countries. In the CMCs, broader structural processes involving multidimensional and intersectoral efforts are required since poverty is rooted in the rural society.

The Research Division of CIRDAP, has, over the years, initiated research and action research activities to address issues relevant towards furthering regional poverty alleviation efforts. The focus of the research programmes covers several priority areas within an integrated approach to

promote structural transformation of the rural society to ensure higher living standards particularly for the rural poor.

The research projects focus on socioeconomic changes in rural societies to analyse the causal factors that affect the lives of the rural disadvantaged groups. Thus it is aimed that the research studies contribute to generating country specific and regional findings and recommendations and suggest policies for rural development programmes/projects in the member countries. To expand the impact of the projects as well as pilot-test the research findings, follow-up projects in the form of action projects have been a consistent and ongoing

feature of the division's activities. In addition, the research programme emphasises the preservation of ecological diversity with a view to promoting sustainable development of the rural areas to ensure a continuing supply of life-supporting resources.

In line with the strategic priorities in rural development endeavours in the CMCs, and consistent with the CIRDAP mandate towards poverty reduction, the Research Division, has always stressed furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in the member countries through the evolution of programme priorities in thematic areas.

Community Initiative for Fisheries Development

This publication is the outcome of the evaluation study conducted by CIRDAP in collaboration with Pesticide Action Network of the Asia-Pacific (PAN-AP) of a community-based fisheries project executed by a local NGO called SHISUK in Bangladesh. The evaluation aimed at developing a model for community development programme by utilising the existing resources. The emphasis was to test alternative model of NGO and community collaboration for entrepreneurship development.

A large number of NGOs operate in Bangladesh with a variety of development interventions and approaches. The NGOs are mostly involved in designing and implementation of action-oriented projects at the community level, often combined with research and training components. Their target population is the poor. Despite variation in perceptions of the problems and resultant thrust of the programmes, NGOs mostly follow the target-group strategy where the poor with similar socioeconomic interests are organised into groups to achieve their objectives.

Shikkha Shastha Unnayan Karzakram (SHISUK) is one of these NGOs. It started functioning in 1993 in Bangladesh with the aim of socioeconomic development of the disadvantaged rural population. Its mission is proper management of the existing resources in the rural areas through community approach that starts with organising the communities

and gradually involving them in the process of socioeconomic development like empowerment, employment and income generation, food security, education and knowledge, awareness building, gaining access to health-care facilities, etc. The unique feature of the SHISUK's programme is to bring the whole community in the development process rather than a specific segment, which many other NGOs pursue. SHISUK believes in community mobilisation and awareness development, and unlike many other NGOs, it does not emphasise dependence on credit.



The programme thrust of these areas recognises that given the overriding dominance of the agriculture sector in the rural economy in the CMCs and the mounting population pressure, improving agricultural productivity is the key to bringing improvements in the rural economy. During the year, CIRDAP research projects targeted analysing the key socioeconomic issues in the rural areas to identify the dynamic elements of rural transformation and suggest policies for accelerating rural development in the member countries. The research outcomes have been widely disseminated through arranging seminars, workshops, consultations, as well as through various forms of publications. A brief review of the activities undertaken during the period is given below:

Promotion of Household Food Security

The project *Promotion of Household Food Security through Development of Rain-fed Agriculture Practices* was initiated to analyse the potentialities of rain-fed agricultural system towards household food security. The focus was to identify innovative rain-fed agricultural practices and suggest measures to replicate efficient and sustainable technologies/practices for the common benefit of the countries in the region. The study was conducted in Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Major Objectives

- To cover the issues of household food security and

their linkages with rain-fed agricultural practices;

- To identify innovative rain-fed agricultural practices; and
- To suggest measures to replicate efficient and sustainable technological practices for the common benefit of the countries in the region.

A report containing the overview and the country studies is awaiting publication.

Asian Financial Crisis and South Asia

The study on *The Asian Financial Crisis and South Asia: Impacts, Responses and Policy Implications* identified the dynamics and both direct and indirect linkages of the Asian financial crisis and their impact on South Asia. It also aimed to examine the results of the policies and other measures undertaken by the countries in response to the crisis. Based on the lessons and findings, the study suggested appropriate measures in future policy making. The study was conducted in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Major Objectives

- To understand the underlying dynamics and cross-country linkages of the Asian financial crisis;
- To understand the implications of the crisis in South Asia;
- To examine the efficacy and adequacy of the policies and

other measures adopted in response to the crisis; and

- To identify appropriate future policy concerns.

A report containing the overview paper and the findings of the country studies and the country reports is in the process of printing.

Appropriate Technology for Rural Women

The project is a follow-up of the recommendations of the regional workshop on Impact of Increase in Household Income on the Role and Status of Women within the Household held in Malaysia in 1998. The action research project intends to identify, disseminate and field-test appropriate technologies towards reducing drudgery, making women's work productive and income and employment generation for rural women in two CMCs. The action research is being conducted in Myanmar and Pakistan.

Major Objectives

- To enhance the quality of life of rural women through provision of appropriate technologies which are in line with their needs and capacities;
- To analyse the dominant features of the economic activities in the project areas;
- To identify the needs of women towards adoption of appropriate technologies;
- To identify and suggest ways and means in which

women's knowledge can be built into adopting appropriate technologies; and

- To adapt existing simple/traditional technologies used by women of different vocations from around the region for field application in select countries.

Report on Rural Development in CMCs

The project is a regular activity of CIRDAP to publish periodic report on RD policies and strategies adopted and implemented in the CIRDAP Member Countries. The results of the implementation of these policies are also analysed.

Major Objectives

- To document current information on the issues related to rural development; and
- To analyse the rural development policies and strategies adopted and implemented in the region.

Food Price Structure Study in South Asia

CIRDAP has initiated a project on *Food Price Structure Study in Selected Countries in South Asia* with support from the Consumers International, Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific (CI ROAP), based in Malaysia covering four CMCs, namely, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The project emphasises reviewing past government strategies and policies for national

development with emphasis on identifying the nature and extent of vulnerability of these countries with respect to food price in the countries. In this context, the study will emphasise analysing the sensitivity of the current programmes to national economic trends and to their capacity to address the diverse requirements of development through increasing understanding of the underlying dynamics and the cross-cutting linkages of the food market in Asia.

Objectives

The general objective of the study is to increase the understanding of the underlying dynamics and the crosscutting linkages of the food market in Asia. A major concern of the project is to examine the efficacy and adequacy of the policy and other adopted measures of the countries in response to the growing demand of staple food and, to identify appropriate concerns in future policy making based on the lessons and findings of the study.

The specific objectives are:

- To examine the difference between farm gate price and consumer price for a specific product in selected countries
- To identify the marketing structure and its impact on the consumer price
- To evaluate the economic situation of the farmers in the countries
- To understand the underlying factors that influence net farm income
- To analyse the economic and social impact of food

price policy and their inter-relationships in terms of identified indicators related to individuals and households as well as the society

- To examine the adequacy and efficacy of the policy measures adopted by the governments and identify common grounds
- To review the current policies, both sectoral and at the macro level.

Rural Development Case Study

CIRDAP was commissioned by UNDP South Africa to conduct the *Case Study on Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Experiment in CIRDAP Member Countries*. The focus of the Case Study was on issues around local and community-driven approaches to rural development with strong emphasis on poverty alleviation. The emphasis was also given on cross-sectoral planning, budgeting and integration of government service delivery at the local level.

Objective

The main objective was to document and share experiences (successes and lessons) from rural development programmes with a particular focus on local and community-driven approaches to integrated rural development and its impact on poverty alleviation. Particular attention was also paid to decentralised governance issues and their relation to integration and coordination.

Pilot Projects

Pilot Projects

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 cooperation and collaboration with NGOs. The projects are designed to suit the requirements of the CMCs. The pilot projects involve the rural communities in various activities such as rural income and employment generation; credit and marketing through formal and informal organisations; rural primary health care; family planning; nonformal education, human resource development; small-scale rural infrastructure and rural resource mobilisation. The major project activities conducted during this year are as follows:

Poverty Alleviation in Myanmar

UNESCO, CIRDAP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Planning (MAP), Myanmar initiated joint pilot project *Poverty Alleviation and Social Mobilisation* in Kwun Gyan Kone Village, Taik Kyi Township, Yangon Division. This project was started in March 2001 and completed in December 2002.

This pilot project sought to empower the self-help groups of poor households to take charge of development process that affects their lives. It was

implemented with the financial assistance from the regional office of the UNESCO, Bangkok, Thailand.

Background

The poor people can break the vicious circle of poverty themselves if they get organised and muster their power and resources to improve their lives. It can be done through organising and empowering the poor. But the social mobilisation process needs to be catalysed by external facilitators and/or internal animators. This pilot project is supposed to empower the self-help groups to take hold of development activities.

Objectives

The ultimate objective was to improve the quality of life of the rural poor. The specific objectives were:

- To form/promote women self-help groups under social mobilisation process;
- To ensure access to credit and mobilise savings; and
- To provide portfolios of opportunities to generate additional income.

Outcome

- A number of vibrant women self-help groups coming into existence;
- A model of participatory approach to build capacity

and empower women self-help groups;

- Enhanced credit facilities for women self-help group members;
- Increased income on a sustainable manner and improvement in the standard of living;
- Self-reliance of women members of the self-help groups; and
- Documentation and dissemination of results of the project for further replication.

Collaborative Project in India

UNESCO, CIRDAP and NIRD, Hyderabad, India have jointly initiated the pilot project *Poverty Alleviation and Social Mobilisation* in one village at Keshampet Mandal, Andhra Pradesh, India. In this connection Mr. Naren Prasad from UNESCO, Bangkok and Dr. Muhammad Solaiman from CIRDAP visited project village during 22–23 November 2001. UNESCO Regional Office, Bangkok has supported a similar project of CIRDAP for about a year in Myanmar. Being satisfied with the performance of that project, UNESCO expressed its willingness to support another same type of project in India.

The methodology proposed for the programme has been field-tested as a participatory development methodology over a wide range of activities e.g. development of fishing communities, social forestry, integration of basic needs and ecological resources, water resources development, population and family-planning activities, livestock development, and development of peripheral infrastructure. The integrated approach takes into account several dimensions (technical, financial, economic, social, institutional and ecological) of the programme activities. In particular, building of local capabilities for self-management and self-reliant activities has been considered as a major goal of the project.

The success criteria of the project are: (i) solidarity of women and a forum for exchange of ideas and their problems on a given platform; (ii) self-help groups would undertake various productive income-generating activities; and (iii) women are able to diversify their activities and undertake various income-generating activities.

The activities of the proposed project are: (i) consultation meeting with the villagers and leaders of the existing self-help groups; (ii) conducting PRA to assess local needs; (iii) identification of animators/facilitators for awareness building and social mobilisation; (iv) conducting baseline survey to document the

village profile; (v) identification of local NGOs to catalyse the social mobilisation process; (vi) formation/promotion of self-help groups; (vii) formation of a village organisation consisting of members of the self-help groups to coordinate the activities of the groups in the village; (viii) motivating women to save some money (on weekly basis); (iv) providing seed capital (by way of revolving fund) to be utilised by the self-help groups; (x) empowering the self-help groups to evolve selection procedure, screening, monitoring and recovery of the loans; (xi) self-help groups to decide the rate of interest and priority in sanctioning loans to the members; (xii) dovetailing the project credit amounts with the ongoing government and NGO programmes; (xiii) financing relevant income-generating activities through seed capital/corpus fund; (xiv) organising villagers through microplanning to discuss their needs and priorities and to identify the type and amount required for various economic activities; (xv) enumeration of skills of the villages relevant to income-generating activities; (xvi) extension work to disseminate information to the beneficiaries on income-generating activities by holding regular meetings with the self-help groups; (xvii) financing of microcredit for productive income-generating activities; (xviii) training of villagers on participatory monitoring and evaluation; (xix) empowering self-help groups to supervise

and control the project support fund; (xx) introducing recreational activities; (xxi) activating the role of village organisation consisting of self-help group members; (xxiii) training to build capacity of the members of SHG and project staff on group formation and group dynamics, group savings, and accounts keeping and loan cycle management.

The following criteria have been used for enlisting the beneficiaries to become a member of the self-help group: (i) belonging to a poor family; (ii) permanent resident of the village; and (iii) some experience or willingness to undergo training to acquire proper skill relevant to income-generating activities.

Capacity Building of People's Organisations

CIRDAP has initiated a pilot project *Capacity Building of People's Organisations under MVRD* in collaboration with the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Kotbari, Comilla. It is being implemented as a follow-up of earlier CIRDAP project on Model Villages in Rural Development (MVRD). The project was initiated in November 1999, and is supposed to be completed in October 2004.

Objectives

The long-term objective of the project is to evolve a replicable model of RD that is expected to bring about an overall

improvement of the villagers through active participation of the community themselves in the entire process of development. The specific objectives of the project are to: (i) build an institutional set-up (ii) promote skill training to the target beneficiaries (iii) undertake kitchen-gardening activities in the project area.

Outcome

Under this project the areas of training to be imparted to the beneficiaries are: (i) live-stock, poultry raising and pisciculture; (ii) computer training; (iii) homestead gardening; iv) skill training i.e. tailoring, electrical, mechanical; and (v) management and community development. A total of six informal groups have been formed since the project started eight months ago. In these six groups about 150 villagers have been getting credit support.

Support to Model Village

Model Village in Rural Development (MVRD) project

was initiated by CIRDAP with the financial support of the Government of Japan. The objective of this experimental project was to develop a model framework for uplifting the socioeconomic condition of the rural people. This project was launched to find out the best way to improve the standard of living of the rural poor. In Bangladesh, two academies - Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla and Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra were involved in implementing the project. RDA had selected Magurgari as an experimental village.

After the completion of the project in October 1996, RDA continued the project with the available seed money of Tk.160, 000. It requested CIRDAP to support the project. CIRDAP agreed to the request and provided some funds.

Objectives

- To assist the villagers to organise themselves to

undertake collective activities to build up a data base for improving the quality of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their development project;

- To assess the relevancy and usefulness of different aspects of participatory development approach;
- To identify the factors contributing to the successful implementation of the project; and
- To disseminate the experiences of the participatory development action project to the planners and policy-makers of the country.

Outcome

- Strengthening existing self-help groups;
- Developing a model of participatory approach to build capacity and empowerment of women self-help groups;
- Ensuring access of women group members to credit facilities;
- Developing livestock sector;
- Improving the standard of living through raising income on a sustainable manner and self-reliance of members of the self-help groups; and
- Documenting and disseminating results of the project.



CIRDAP professionals exchangeing views with the project beneficiaries

Training

Training

Mandated to assist member countries in capacity building and human resources development, CIRDAP has started its training programmes to facilitate achieving the objectives of rural development. Apart from enhancing capacity of the development functionaries, it has also facilitated attitudinal and behavioural changes to become a strong advocate of community participation in the development process.

During the year under review, CIRDAP has organised training programmes at regional/subregional and national levels. It has also given facilitation and expert services, and documented and published training reports.

At the regional/subregional level, the partnership built up with the Commonwealth Secretariat, UK, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) in India has continued in the reporting period. The services of

the Centre have also been utilised for an exposure visit of Indian officials (SERP project) to China, Thailand etc., for a training programme on microcredit to officials of Sri Lanka (RDTRI-UNDP project), and for a study visit for the officials of Bangladesh to the Philippines (CIDA poultry project). At the national level, Link Institutions in different member countries have collaborated with CIRDAP in organising trainings under a cost-sharing arrangement and budgetary support towards In-Country Training programmes.

Regional Workshop

Governance, Partnership and Poverty

The Commonwealth Secretariat and CIRDAP organised the Regional Workshop on *Governance, Partnership and Poverty* on 14-17 December 2002 at CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The subject of governance is one common

concern for the Centre and the Secretariat. The issue of governance has a vast effect on development and poverty alleviation, two areas in which the activities of CIRDAP and the Commonwealth Secretariat are significantly anchored.

The Secretariat sponsored the programme while the Centre implemented it. The Commonwealth Secretariat has been a long-time partner of CIRDAP in its training activities. Both institutions have worked together in areas such as project formulation, environment and rural development, and disaster reduction and sustainable development.

A total of 31 representatives from member countries of the Commonwealth and CIRDAP including resource persons, observers from local international bodies and institutions have taken part in the workshop. The resource persons especially invited for the workshop were Prof. Mozammel Huq (Scotland, UK), Mr. Randeep Sudan (Hyderabad, India) and Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury (Dhaka, Bangladesh).

H.E. Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Local, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop. In his inaugural address the Minister linked good governance with poverty eradication. Stressing the need for institution building for good governance, the Hon'ble Minister said the government of Bangladesh decided to constitute village



The Workshop in session

government and empower them with adequate resources and responsibilities. He emphasised the importance of transparency and accountability for good governance.

Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Nath, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, People's Republic of Bangladesh, who was Special Guest on the occasion, mentioned that good governance encompassed the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and resolve their differences. He defined governance as one in which power was exercised in the management of the country's economic and social development.

In his welcome address, Dr. Mya Maung, Director General of CIRDAP stated that the issues related to gender, environment, income and employment, growth, society and politics work as part of the process of good governance. Good governance, as part of the strategy for poverty alleviation, is getting much more pronounced now than ever and is high on the agenda of both the Commonwealth Secretariat and CIRDAP and various other international organisations, he observed.

In all 13 country papers and 5 papers from resource persons have been presented during the workshop. Prof. Dr. William L. Flinn (USA) has prepared a paper on restructuring

bureaucracy, which was presented by Dr. Mya Maung. The five working groups on five identified themes have come out with a set of recommendations after intensive deliberations.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Head (Training and ICD), CIRDAP and Workshop Coordinator proposed vote of thanks during the inaugural session and conveyed a message from Mr. Mohammad Jasimuddin, Chief Programme Officer, the Commonwealth Secretariat, wishing the workshop a success.

Objective

The general objective of the workshop is to bring together experts from CIRDAP and Commonwealth member countries for sharing cross-country experiences and ideas on the identified themes of the workshop.

The workshop sought to:

- Harness current initiatives being undertaken in the areas of governance and decentralisation, in the

context of national/regional development strategies.

- Provide a forum for practitioners in the governing process to reflect on a number of current international experiences in governance and public management.
- Brainstorm possible future actions through continued networks and collaboration at regional levels.
- Identify possible areas of further research and training in the area of governance, which could contribute to capacity building in the Commonwealth and CIRDAP member countries.

Themes Discussed during the Workshop

Theme 1: Good Governance – Perspectives and Issues from Asia-Pacific and Africa

This theme looked at governance in general and 'good' governance in particular from the Asia and African perspectives. It offered a historical perspective of the



Group work by the participants

experience of these countries in governance in the light of their political, social and economic developments.

Theme 2: Reforming the Bureaucracy – Towards Improved Public Sector Management

In most developing countries, the bureaucracy plays a dominant role in the management of development, including the provision of goods and services. However, the institutional characteristics, arrangements and governance practices of the bureaucracy in these countries vary. The presentation under this theme provided specific experience or cases of selected countries that may offer insights into success or failure of the reforms undertaken.

Theme 3: Public-Private-Civil Society Partnership for Good Governance, Development and Poverty Reduction

Some developing countries with strong private and civil society organisations have benefited from the support and partnership of these organisations in the implementation of development programmes and particularly those programmes that are designed to reduce poverty. This is particularly observed in the cases where the government regime proved to be supportive or open to such partnership.

Theme 4: In Aid of Good Governance – The Potential Role of Information Technology

The information technology (IT) is perceived to have enormous

potential in helping improve governance by way of facilitating the processing information, improving accessibility and enhancing the timeliness of information. There are countries that have used IT to improve or address issues in governance. This session presented some of the cases or experiences on the use of information technology for good governance. Other countries may be able to draw lessons and insights from their experience.

Theme 5: Decentralisation and Institutional Restructuring

Many governments are pushing ahead with economic and administrative reforms, as a response to propoor initiatives and delivery of services at doorsteps and emerging demands for local-level participation in decision making, in implementation and for proper monitoring of development projects. Devolution of powers and functions and decentralised budgets to local governments have been the main agenda in such a reform process.

In-Country Training

Myanmar

Training Methodologies and Management

CIRDAP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), Union of Myanmar, has organised its In-Country Training course on *Training Methodologies and Management* between 18-21 February 2002 at the Central Agriculture and Research Centre, Hlegu, situated 36 miles North-East of Yangon. Thirty-two officers, of whom half were women, from different departments and different parts of the country participated in the programme.

Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Head (Training), CIRDAP and Ms. Sukhmaya Bohra, Assistant Director of Studies, Women Development Training Centre, under Local Development Training Academy, (LDTA) Nepal, served as external resource persons for the training course.



Group photograph of the training participants in Yangon

Vietnam

Small Business Development

At the special request of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Policy under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Government of Vietnam, the In-Country Training programme with the financial and technical support of CIRDAP was organised at MARD Office, Hanoi during 7-9 May 2002. The course was on *Small Business Development* and attended by 30 participants from various regions/offices of the country.

The course covered aspects of small business development like technology, marketing, extension and entrepreneurship development. While the technical support was given by Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Head (Training), CIRDAP, the logistic support was extended by Ms. Chu Thi Hao, Vice Director and Mr. Nguyen Van Viet, expert of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sri Lanka

Participatory Techniques for Rural Projects

The training programme on *Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural/Community Development Projects* was conducted between 22 and 24 May 2002 at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Colombo.

This was a joint training programme of HARTI and



Group photograph of the training participants in Colombo

CIRDAP. CIRDAP provided financial and technical support for this programme. Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Head, Training Division, CIRDAP, acted as a resource person.

The objectives of this training programme were:

- To enhance participants' knowledge about the concepts and methods used in participatory planning and management of rural/community development projects and programmes.
- To develop skill of the participants in using participatory techniques such as RRA/PRA and PCM in planning and managing rural/community development projects and programmes.

Twenty-six officers representing various government institutions and NGOs have participated in the programme.

Indonesia

Empowerment of Rural Women

The Seminar on *Empowerment of Rural Women in Enhancing Community Income through Small and Medium Enterprises* was held on 24 June 2002 in Yogyakarta. The seminar was organised by SOCSEA in collaboration with the Office of Industry and Trade of the Special Province of Yogyakarta.

The seminar was attended by 80 participants, majority of whom were women. The representatives of various women organisations, academic circles and NGOs participated in the seminar.

Ms. Retno Pratiwi, Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the seminar welcomed the participants. Mr. Agung Mulyana, Head of SOCSEA made introductory remarks and Mr. Bambang Purnomo, Special Assistant to the Governor for Welfare Affairs representing the Governor of Yogyakarta Special



Group photograph of the training participants in Jakarta

Province delivered the keynote address of the Governor and declared the seminar officially open.

Prospect of Village Enterprise

The Seminar on the *Prospect of Village Enterprise as Advancing Engine of Village Economic Growth towards Sustainable Development* was held on 30 July 2002 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The seminar was organised by SOCSEA in collaboration with the Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment (DGCVE), Ministry of Home Affairs as CIRDAP Link Institution in Indonesia.

The seminar was attended by 76 officials representing various government institutions dealing with rural development at national, provincial as well as district level. Representatives of universities, donor agencies/international organisations and NGOs also took part in the seminar.

The Philippines

Beneficiary Research for DAR & BARBD Personnel

An In-country Training on *Beneficiary Research, Social Product Development and Marketing* for Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) field personnel was held from 12 to 16 August 2002 in Manila.

The Programme Beneficiaries Development (PBD) thrusts and directions under the administration of Secretary Hernani Braganza called for:

- Rationalisation, integration and institutionalisation of the delivery of support services;
- Establishment of Farmers Bayanihan Centres for Rural Development (FBCRD) and the People's Council for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (PCARRD); and
- Installation and operationalisation of an agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) "Passport" System.

These new programme thrusts and directions aim to address the limited reach of PBD interventions among the ARBs as well as the reduction of PBD budget for Calendar Year (CY) 2002.

In response to these new thrusts and directions, Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD), the institutional development arm of DAR, underwent an internal restructuring in terms of functions and staff complement of its existing units. This was done to:

- Speed up beneficiary research and social product development;
- Increase the capacity of its current distribution system and open up pipelines for big multiplier effects through high-impact partners; and
- Improve knowledge captured through monitoring and evaluation.

In March 2002, the Training on *Beneficiary Research, Social Product Development and Marketing* was conducted for BARBD staff. To achieve maximum results in terms of ARB reach, it is felt imperative to provide similar training to BARBD's field counterparts.

The objectives of the programme were to:

- Identify appropriate beneficiary research strategies and protocols as requisites to social product development;



Programme/Project Development Management Loop

- Assess the social product development and marketing requirements as input to project development and product distribution;
- Explain the links between beneficiary needs and the success of programme interventions along social, cultural and economic dimensions;
- Discuss the principles of medium-term and operations planning which are necessary to support the intensification and expansion of high-impact projects intended for ARBs.

Three resource persons from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) were drawn to provide the technical inputs on beneficiary research; social product development and marketing; and medium-term and operations planning.

BARBD staff, especially those from the Product Social Marketing Division (PSMD), handled over-all training facilitation and secretariat work. A total of 36 participants, resource persons and facilitators attended the programme.

Pakistan

Computerised Documentation System

The training course *on Use and Application of Computerised Documentation System* was held in Islamabad during 30 September-5 October 2002.

The application of computer-based information storage and retrieval systems in libraries and documentation centres is becoming increasingly essential to meet present demands. Computer-based information systems provide efficient and cost-effective bibliographic control to meet users' needs. The use of computers for a variety of houses keeping functions also enhances the management capability of library, information and documentation centres and facilitates resource sharing. A library software that is being widely applied for this purpose is CDS/ISIS (Computerised Documentation System / Integrated Set of Information Systems) developed by UNESCO.

The training course aimed at providing information personnel with an opportunity to develop an appreciation of the potential use of new information technology and to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to automate information-related activities.

The specific objectives of the course were to:

- Develop the participants' ability to create computerised bibliographic database using WINISIS;
- Develop computerised information dissemination services;
- Enhance cooperation and resource sharing among information personnel.

A combination of lectures providing theoretical orientation and practical sessions has been used in the training course. Twenty-five participants took part in the course, and Mr. Nathan Sarker, Computer Programmer of CIRDAP, acted as a resource person.



Training course in Islamabad

Exposure Visit on Microcredit

A total of four Training-cum-Exposure Visit programmes were organised by the CIRDAP Training Division during the year 2002.

First Course

The first group, with 10 officials from different NGOs, banks and Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) of India visited Bangladesh to gain experience on microcredit activities. BIRD of INDIA sponsored the programme, and CIRDAP implemented it from 28 January to 3 February 2002.

The officials had classroom sessions where professionals from CIRDAP, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Grameen Bank, Association for Social Development (ASA), BRAC, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) briefed the delegates about the microcredit operation in Bangladesh. To sharpen knowledge of the participants, field visits to Grameen Bank, ASA and BRAC beneficiary

sites were organised, where the delegates had were organised interaction with the clientele of the microcredit institutions. The participants have interacted with branch offices and women groups in selected villages near Comilla.

Second Course

The second Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Microcredit in Bangladesh for Indian delegates was held from 1 to 8 March 2002. Sixteen officials from NGOs, nationalised and rural banks participated in the programme. According to the needs of the delegates, CIRDAP arranged briefing and field visits to PKSF, Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC, Sonali Bank and Rural Development Academy (RDA). The participants had discussions with field officers and women groups in Bogra.

Third Course

Realising the fact that microcredit is one of the tools for poverty alleviation, UNDP, Sri Lanka sponsored eleven community-based organisations (CBOs) officials to participate in the Training-cum-Exposure Visit

on Microcredit in Bangladesh between 2-8 November 2002. The delegates were from the Department of Samrudhi and other CBOs from different parts of Sri Lanka.

The participants were briefed about the microcredit activities of PKSF, Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC and BARD through lectures, video presentation, discussions and interaction sessions with grassroots organisations and women groups. Field visits were organised to grassroots level beneficiaries of Grameen Bank, ASA and BRAC.

Fourth Course

As a regular collaborative programme between BIRD, India and CIRDAP, a group comprising 21 members from different NGOs, banks and the Institute visited Bangladesh to gain experience on microcredit activities. BIRD sponsored the programme, and CIRDAP implemented it from 15 to 22 November 2002.

The officials had classroom sessions where professionals from CIRDAP, PKSF, Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) briefed the delegates about the microcredit operation in Bangladesh. The participants were also taken to Grameen Bank, ASA and BRAC beneficiary sites, where they exchanged views with the clientele of the microcredit institutions and various women self-help groups in the villages.



Training course for Sri Lankan officials

Information and Communication

Information and Communication

The Information and Communication Division (ICD) of CIRDAP acts as a focal point for information dissemination within the Centre, with a broader mandate to work as a information clearing house for its member countries. The Division undertakes the following activities to materialise its mandates: 1. Dissemination of IRD Information; 2. Library Services and Bibliographic Database; 3. Greater Deployment of Information Technology; 4. Development Support Communication through AV Media; 5. Implementation of Information and Communication Projects.

During 2002, the Division continued its efforts to strengthen and enrich the Centre's information resources. The information generated by the Centre's activities were documented and disseminated via print and electronic media. In addition to its regular library services, the Division also took up skill development through training courses on library automation software (WINISIS) and webpage development.

Dissemination of IRD Information

The activities of the programme divisions of CIRDAP i.e. Research, Action Research, Pilot Projects, and Training generate rural development information, which is relevant and important for the rural development practitioners. ICD disseminates this information along with the regional and cross-country data on rural development and relevant issues through regular and periodic publications and other information services like library and online services. The main publications of CIRDAP are the Study Series, Action Research Series, Training Series, Journal, and Development Digest. Besides these, the Centre also publishes different types of books, reports/monographs, brochures etc.

The quarterly *CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD)* disseminates results of research and action research/pilot projects and proceedings of seminars, workshops and

training courses, news on integrated rural development (IRD) events and activities in member countries, research notes, project highlights, notes on development partners and development organisation. The Digest is distributed throughout the world, to around 1,200 institutions and individuals concerned with rural development. Three issues of CDD came out in the reporting period.

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) is interdisciplinary in nature and is devoted to issues and discussions on rural development primarily in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Journal is being published by CIRDAP since 1991. The abstracts of articles of APJORD are regularly made available on the Internet. During the period 2002, two issues of the Journal were published while work is going on for another issue. In addition to these periodicals, the Centre brought out one book, six reports/mimeographs and annual report.



ICD maintains a database of mailing list for effective dissemination of IRD information including those generated through CIRDAP programmes and projects.

Library Services and Bibliographic Database

The fully automated library of CIRDAP serves as a resource centre and a data bank. It has a holding of 17,450 books, and it receives about 250 journals

through exchange and subscription. Institutional documents such as books, monographs, journals, brochures, programme literature, reports of research studies, technical notes and series, proceedings of conferences, seminars and workshops are constantly added to its resources.

The library is a depository for World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) publications and regularly receives publications of other international and regional organisations. Computerised bibliographic database is continuously updated to facilitate easy access to current literature on IRD and poverty alleviation. Internet sites are also being used to collect information on various subjects. The following library services are provided: Current awareness services; Literature searches; On-request bibliographies; Lending, reference and referral, and photocopying services.

Greater Deployment of Information Technology

The CIRDAP website at www.cirdap.org.sg is hosted by the Singapore-based PanAsia Network of International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The website contains information about the Centre's programmes and projects, publications and forthcoming events such as training courses, workshops, seminars, etc. Current news and press releases are also regularly posted on the website. Links

with CIRDAP Link Institutions and Contact Ministries have been established to access country-specific information. The website offers e-commerce facilities to make CIRDAP publications available through the Internet. Complete list of publications and abstracts of recent publications have been uploaded on the site so that on-line orders could be obtained.

The delivery at present, however, is still off-line. Now a good number of orders for publications are received on-line. Recently the website has been updated to include Membership Application Form and procedures, press releases and advertisements. Separate e-mail addresses for CIRDAP Training Division and Administration (trgcir@citechco.net; admcir@citechco.net) have been obtained while DG office has been connected with the general e-mail address.

Some recent publications are available in CD-ROM format. During policy meetings and other important forums/sessions, PowerPoint presentations are regularly used to supplement the regular audio-visual presentations.

During the reporting period, computer users at CIRDAP have been trained on use of application software, management of e-mail and internet, maintenance and preventing trouble-shooting while the Division developed some users' manuals for some programmes to facilitate operation.

Development Support Com. through AV Media

The member countries have been requested to supply secondary/available footage to CIRDAP to facilitate updating the CIRDAP Audio-Visual, and two countries have supplied the footage in required format.

In 2002, *Learning from Success*, a training video of Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), produced by CIRDAP on Organisation Study Mission (OSM), came out, and copies were distributed to the CMCs. The video was produced with APO's financial assistance.

Implementation of IC Projects

In addition to its regular activities the Division takes up the following information communication projects.

Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, the **Rural Development Communications Network (RDCN)** project was started in November 1997 with a view to strengthening the rural development programmes and projects of the CIRDAP member countries through electronic networking and to providing access to new information technology to the IRD Network of CIRDAP. Under the project, most of the countries have acquired/upgraded hardware and software, and have obtained Internet connectivity and oriented their personnel. Some have developed the contents for their webpages and completed end user workshops. Websites have been established

in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The other countries are still in the process of developing their websites. Although most of the components of the project have been finished, the project has not yet successfully completed because some participating countries are still in line to set up their websites. Recently these member countries have been requested to complete their part.

The Information Sharing and Dissemination of Rural Development Success Stories

project was initiated with funding from the Government of Japan. However in view of the funding discontinuation, the project has been reorganised to publish available success stories on various aspects of rural development provided by the CIRDAP Link Institutions. In order to facilitate wider replication of country-specific achievements in rural development, case studies on various success stories and cross-country experiences will be documented under the project. The project has the overall objective of strengthening rural development programmes and projects of CIRDAP member countries in order to bring about a qualitative improvement in the life of rural people in these countries. Most of the CLIs have already forwarded some success stories during TC-18 meeting in Dhaka. Work is underway to publish them.

Two training courses (fee levying) on ***Use and***

Application of WINISIS (Windows version of CDS/ISIS) and Basics of WebPage Development using HTML were held in CIRDAP on 1-7 April 2002 and on 9-15 September 2002. CIRDAP has been organising training courses on CDS/ISIS since 1992. Over the years a number of library and information professionals were trained on CDS/ISIS application. Earlier the software was available only in the DOS version and only recently the Windows version became available for use. CIRDAP experiences over the nine years of conducting this training show that there is a good demand for this training from library and information personnel. Now CIRDAP is conducting this training course every year, using the WINISIS software (updated Windows version of CDS/ISIS) and adding the component of webpage development and resource discovery through the Internet with it. These two courses stressed the potential use of new information technology and aimed to equip the participants with the skill and knowledge needed to automate information-related activities. The specific objectives of the courses were to: develop the participants' ability to create computerised bibliographic database using WINISIS; develop computerised information dissemination services; and enhance cooperation and resource sharing among information personnel. The second course, the tenth in a series, was primarily focused on beginners, and the curriculum covered the

extensive use and application of the software.

A total of fifteen participants from various libraries of universities, research/academic institutes and organisations (Government and nongovernment) as well as different professionals from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who are working with databases took part in the training courses. As a part of the Centre's continuous efforts to upgrade its human resources, two staff members were allowed to take part in the course. The training course covered topics such as electronic communication (including Internet and the information superhighway), use and application of WINISIS and communication formats. Trainees were trained on extensive application of WINISIS including creation and handling of databases, data entry/editing, sorting/retrieval services, dissemination methods as well as on basics of webpage development using HTML. A combination of lectures providing the theoretical orientation, and practical sessions, was used in the training course.

The participants found the course very relevant and useful for work. In particular, it helped them update their knowledge in database development.

Some Success Stories in CMCs

Bangladesh

Comprehensive Village Development Programme

Pilot experimentation is one of the important activities of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla. The Academy has been experimenting on the *Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)*, the major goal of which is to organise the villagers in a single organisation and to channelise the development inputs and services to the villagers. It emphasises the creation of a multipurpose single village institution to be used as a platform by all development agencies irrespective of government and nongovernment which may gradually help reducing duplication, proliferation, wastage and inefficiency and in turn, would contribute to the development of a sustainable process of self-managed village institution.

Objectives

The general objective of the programme is to improve the socioeconomic condition and quality of life of all classes of people in the village through a common institutional framework. The specific objectives of CVDP are:

- To develop a common village institution and make available different social and economic services for all classes of people irrespective of age and sex at the village level;
- To increase production in both farm and nonfarm

sectors, productive employment and household income utilising all available resources maximally; and

- To encourage the people in mobilisation of capital and local resources for undertaking various income-generating activities (IGAs) and social development projects.

Causes of Success

Member Education

- Weekly meetings held regularly are used as a forum for education and training of the members.
- Managers of the societies regularly attend the training classes and share these experiences at the weekly meetings of the society.

Sense of Belongingness

Members consider the societies as their own organisations and have a sense of belongingness to the societies.

Membership Disciplines

Due to sound membership solidarity, membership discipline is observed strictly. This is reflected in: a) regular attendance at meetings; b) regular weekly savings deposits; c) annual purchase of shares; and d) timely payment of loan and other dues to the societies.

Capital Accumulation and Credit Programme

- Efforts are made to accumulate capital from

internal sources, realisation of irrigation charges, and profits from business activities of the societies.

- The credit operations of the societies are diversified.

Diversified Programmes

- The societies have undertaken diversified development activities such as: women's development programme; family-planning programme; education programme; programme for the landless; and agricultural extension programme.
- The societies have also undertaken programmes especially for the benefit of the poor members, e.g. interest-free credit; opportunities for sharecropping for the poor and landless farmers; cattle rearing/fattening programmes; milch cow raising; net making etc.
- The societies have also formed various welfare funds for education, health and social development activities;
- The societies have developed several business enterprises successfully and earnings for the members.

Sustainability

CVDP emphasises production, employment and income-generating aspect of development. But it does not neglect the social services and social security aspects of development also. It categorically looks after health,

education, family planning, housing, sanitation, environment, social harmony, law and order, etc.

Replicability

The Local Government Engineering Department has been replicating the concept of CVDP through Small Scale Water Resources Development Project in 37 South-Western districts of Bangladesh by organising Water Management Cooperative Societies. The concept of CVDP may also be replicated throughout South Comilla and North Noakhali Drainage-cum-Irrigation Project of Bangladesh Water Development Board in extending irrigation facilities to the farmers of that area.

Indonesia

Kacamatan Development Programme

During the time of extreme economic and political crisis in early 1998, *Kacamatan Development Programme (KDP)* was formulated based on series of discussions between the Government of Indonesia (GOI) and the World Bank in response to the crisis and increase of the poverty levels in the rural areas of Indonesia. KDP was designed to decentralise decision making down to village level so that the villagers can participate in the decision-making processes of their village development activities.

Objectives

The objectives of KDP are:

- To alleviate poverty by increasing income of the rural people;

- To strengthen local government and community institutions; and
- To improve good governance.

Causes of Success

The main causes of success of KDP are:

- Community participation and the role of government;
- Transparency;
- Simplicity; and
- Healthy competition for funds.

Sustainability

The central government, local government and community groups have been strongly committed to sustain and maintain the project because of the fact the KDP is more participatory and transparent than any other programme in Indonesia.

Replicability

Due to the successful implementation of the programme, GOI and World Bank will replicate KDP project in 19,873 of 67,925 villages in the next three years.

Myanmar

Capacity building and Empowerment of Women Self-Help Groups through Microcredit and Social Mobilisation

CIRDAP implemented this project in Myanmar with the financial assistance of the Government of Japan through Department of Agricultural Planning (DAP) under the

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation during the period from July 1999 to 2002.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To build capacity of the disadvantaged women and empower them by promoting self-help strategy under social mobilisation process;
- To alleviate poverty through microcredit support and mobilisation of savings;
- To undertake entrepreneur development programme through providing training on different income-generating activities;
- To improve the quality of life of the target beneficiaries by increased access to basic social services; and
- To build self-reliant communities by promoting appropriate community development work.

Causes of Success

The following are the causes that made the project successful:

- Use of CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development
- Use of participatory approach
- Use of Community Information and Planning System
- Full participation of villagers
- Sound Country Project Strategy
- Timely financial assistance

- Full cooperation of department and authorities concerned
- Mobilisation of local resources
- Use of participatory monitoring and evaluation

Sustainability

Since this project is highly beneficial to the rural poor in Myanmar, it has been taken over by the DAP to meet the financial liability beyond the pilot stage. The Project Steering Committee had decided payment of additional six per cent interest on savings mobilisation by the villagers and contribution of 25 per cent interest earned from the revolving fund to the community development activities, handing over the project to the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) to institutionalise the activities for sustainability and enable replication of the project in two other villages.

Replicability

With respect to the project replicability, MADB under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has started the project along with further testing the project in two neighbouring villages to extend it nationwide.

Nepal

Drinking Water Project

Dhulikhel, the project area, lies along the Araniko Highway. Dhulikhel is the headquarters of Kavre District. The population of Dhulikhel is about 14 thousands. The total area of the Dhulikhel is approximately 1,087 hectares, and it is at an elevation of 1550

metres above the mean sea level.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- To make potable drinking water available to the user in an effective and easily accessible way.
- To involve people in the whole process of the project so that they could manage and handle the project.
- To develop ownership of the project among the users for its sustainability.

Causes of Success

The following factors led to the success of the project:

People's Initiative: All the local people with their untiring efforts implemented the project successfully.

Institutional Support: This project was relatively a big project in terms of financial and technical resources. The total cost of this project was US\$482,823 and the pipe length was 13.5km, which was beyond the capacity of the community alone. However, with the financial and technical support from the government and the donor (GTZ), this project was completed in time.

Effective Leadership: The leadership has been a crucial factor in the success of this project. The local leader B. P. Shrestha played crucial role in motivating and awakening the local community towards safe-drinking water and sanitation. And the local community gave him full support in his endeavour. Mr. Shrestha

organised a group of enthusiastic youths to raise voice and influence concerned institutions, and managed to get support from the government and the donors.

Formation of Users Committee: Nine member Users Committee including two women members is operating the drinking water project. The Users Committee is responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the project. Therefore, the project is handled and managed by the users and thereby the project is gradually moving towards institutionalisation.

Sustainability

People's initiation and involvement in any project can contribute towards the sustainability of the project. Any development programme in the society does not last long if people's participation is lacking. In the case of Dhulikhel Drinking Water Project, local people have been engaged in the project right from the beginning to the end, with their own will and interest. Besides, a lot of efforts to make it sustainable have been made, and gradually the drinking water project is moving towards self-reliant and self-sustained.

Replicability

This drinking project is taken as a model of public-people partnership project in Nepal. The project is the product of collaborating efforts of local government, donors and the users community. The beneficiaries manage this project in an effective and sustainable manner. As a successful public-people partnership project, its

managerial procedures and systems can be replicated to other projects of similar nature.

The Philippines

Strengthening the Extension Delivery System of the Local Government Units

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is mandated to implement Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) to broaden the country's land ownership base, provide the required resources to increase farm productivity and improve the socioeconomic status of the agrarian reform beneficiaries.

DAR with the assistance of UNDP is in the process of implementation of a project called *Support to Assist Reform through the CARP and Development of Indigenous Communities (SARDIC)*. The project is being implemented among the rural poor farmers and indigenous people in about 80 agrarian reform communities (ARCs) spread over six provinces of the country. One of the innovative approaches of SARDIC programme is the *Strengthening of the Extension Delivery System of the Local Government Units*.

Objectives

The main objectives of the programme are:

- To ensure sustainable development and higher productivity of reformed areas through the development of local extension service systems

- To empower agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and their organisations for self-development and collective actions; and
- To increase incomes of ARBs through improved productivity, enterprise development, access to markets and agriculture-based development of ARCs.

Causes of Success

Extension delivery system in the ARCs has produced promising results due to following three basic reasons that are: (i) Sustainability perspective; (ii) Systems perspective; and (iii) Anchorage perspective.

In order to ensure sustainability of the extension delivery system, the project focused on strategic activities guided by people-centred development principles.

The second contributory factor for the success of the project was its application of a system approach. The extension system works because its component elements are implemented interdependently and interrelatedly. One component is dependent on the outcome of the other component. The project employed an interactive and iterative process in implementing the different components from one phase to another maximising the active involvement of the different key players.

The third factor is the anchorage perspective of the extension system. The nature of the extension system was congruent and supportive to the promotion and practice of sustainable agriculture. This provided the focus of the interventions in the

system, an advantage considering the limited financial and human power resources in the province, municipalities and communities.

Sustainability

In spite of outcome, effect and impact, the project suffers from two major constraints: the system vulnerability to local government unit (LGU) politics and change in leadership; and low priority to agricultural extension.

Some measures and mechanisms to cushion the impact of the constraints include the following: i) signing of Memoranda of Cooperation with the LGUs; ii) the active participation of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators; and iii) the conscious effort of providing the communities with more opportunities for empowerment.

Replicability

The replicability of the SARDIC extension system is possible with the establishment of an effective and efficient agricultural system that works within the mandate of the LGUs and brings in other key players such as the community and the NGOs and NGAs. The following are the facilitating factors that will pave the way for replicability and expansion of the extension system in other ARCs: i) the increasing role and commitment of LGUs to sustain the provision of extension services; ii) the community's participation in extension work; and iii) the enhanced awareness and participation of NGOs, NGAs and state universities and colleges in the provision of extension services and community development.

Seminar News

All the natural disasters are man-made

All the natural disasters are basically man-made, not natural although natural elements are there. A German professor told a CIRDAP seminar.

The seminar on *Natural Disasters: International Experience and Perspectives for Bangladesh* was held at the CIRDAP auditorium on 13 March 2002. Prof. B. Braun, Department of Geography, University of Bonn, was the main speaker on the occasion.

He mentioned that the natural events such as storm surges, severe river flooding, excessive rainfall, landslides; and earthquakes are being reinforced by human impact on local, regional, national and global level. When the natural events turn into disasters, they result in deaths, diseases, injuries, homelessness, land loss (through erosion), crop loss, loss of animals, and direct and indirect economic burdens, increasing foreign debt and accelerating social polarisation.

According to Professor Braun, the factors responsible for world-wide increase of natural disasters are:

population growth; increasing standard of living (wealth); population concentration and concentration of capital in major urban areas; settlement and industrialisation in risk-exposed areas; vulnerability of modern societies and technology; and changing environmental conditions (e.g. global warming).

He put emphasis on an integrated approach that considers social, economic, and political perspective for a long-term development to face disaster or to overcome impact of the disaster.

Dr. Mya Maung, Director General of CIRDAP, who delivered welcome address, chaired the seminar. The experts and professionals who took part in the discussion were: Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao, Head, Training and IC Division, CIRDAP; Dr. S.I. Khan, Chairman, Gram Bangla Sangstha; Shabbir A. Chowdhury, Programme Head, Micro-finance, BRAC; Abdur Rahman Miah, Deputy Director, National Institute of Local Government (NILG); Z. M. Shoeb, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography,

University of Rajshahi; and Ashraf Mahmood Dewan, Lecturer, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka.

Analysing flood in 1998 in Bangladesh, Professor Braun said the natural event turned into disaster because of some basic factors. He brought all the factors under three categories: Root Causes, Dynamic Pressure, and Unsafe Conditions.

As Root Causes of the disaster, he identified: unequal power relations and property rights; inactivity among the elite and persisting self-referentiality; disrupted and dislocated economy inherited from rule by Britain and West Pakistan; and lacking of co-operation between India and Bangladesh.

Under Dynamic Pressure, he took into account: insufficient economic development; lack of job alternatives; population pressure (subdivision of land, expansion of settlement zones, and rapid urbanisation); lack of land reform; absence of social insurance; partly inadequate education system (especially on basic level); and weak tax base.

Under Unsafe Conditions, he mentioned: dependence on intensive land use; squatters in high risk areas, widespread landlessness; limited access to good drinking water, poor nutrition; low resistance against diseases; limited financial reserves and savings; and persisting illiteracy.

Dr. Muhammad Solaiman, Director, Research, CIRDAP wrapped up the discussions while Dr. M. A. Momin, Seminar Coordinator and Programme Officer (Pilot Projects) of CIRDAP, gave vote of thanks.

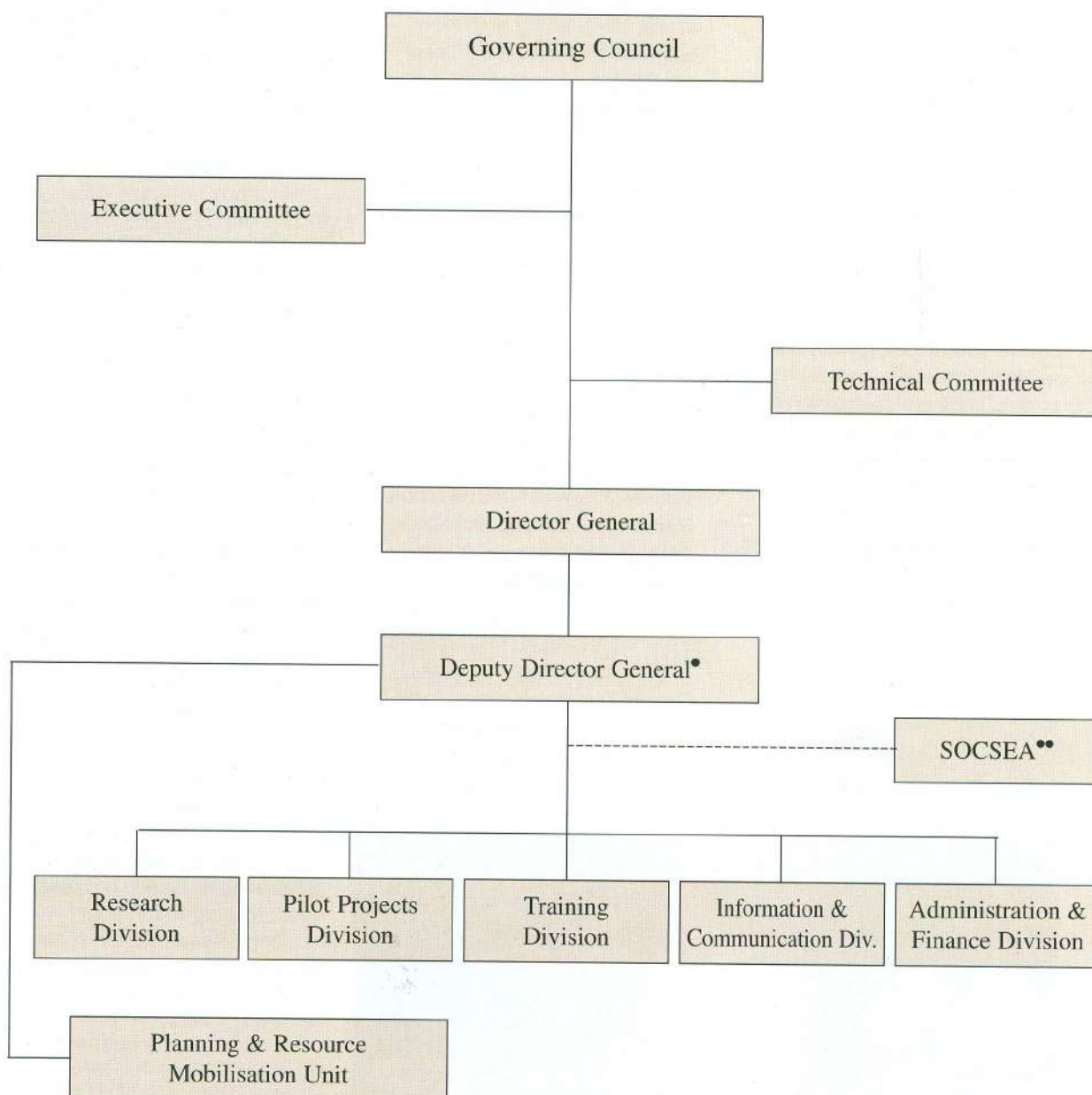


Professor Braun (C) delivering his speech at the seminar

Administration and Finance

Organisational Structure

The Centre is responsible to its member countries for its programme of work, which is carried out within the policy guidelines framed from time to time by member states through the following organisational structure:



• The post is vacant at present.

•• Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP for South-East Asia in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Governing Council

The Governing Council (GC) is the highest policy-making body in the Centre's organisational structure and consists of the Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Agriculture in the member states. Meeting once every two years, the GC formulates policies, provides directions to the Centre and provides the biennial programme of work, budget and future plans.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC), a recommendatory body, comprises the Secretaries/Permanent Secretaries/Secretaries General of the contact ministries. Its main functions are to: review the activities of the Centre, lay down general standards and guidelines for the management, give guidance to the Director General of CIRDAP and make recommendations to the GC. Usually it meets once a year.

Technical Committee

The Technical committee (TC) is composed of the heads of all the CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs), the Director general of FAO or his representative, a representative of a nonmember state (which has contributed financially to the Centre); a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); an expert of outstanding professional experience on IRD, and the Director General of CIRDAP. An advisory body,

which meets annually, the TC provides professional inputs, reviews the technical aspects of the programmes and the budget of the Centre.

Secretariat

A full-time Director General, elected by the GC for a four-year term, is the chief executive of the organisation. He directs the work of the Centre in consonance with the policy and decisions adopted by the Governing Council under the guidance of the Executive Committee. He is assisted by a Deputy Director General (DDG) and a number of professional staff in the Centre's five divisions of Research, Pilot Projects, Training, Information and Communication, Administration and Finance, and a recently created Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit.

In accordance with a decision of the Governing Council, the first Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP has been established in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 February 1997 to assist national action and promote subregional cooperation relating to IRD. The Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP for South-East Asia (SOCSEA) will help increase CIRDAP membership, its resources and facilitate conduct of training, research and pilot projects relevant to the subregion.

CIRDAP's core group of professional staff taken from the CMCs has expertise spread across various facets/disciplines relating to rural development. The professional staff are assisted by locally recruited

technical and support staff. The Centre also draws international experts and the professional expertise available in the CLIs and other professional institutions in the CMCs in implementing its programmes.

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).

In the year 2002, the CMC contributions amounted to US\$437,286 and financial support for new and ongoing projects amounted to US\$256,248.

Audit of the Accounts

The final accounts of the Centre for 2000-2001 biennium were audited by Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Assistant Comptroller & Auditor-General, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of Bangladesh, Audit Bhaban, Dhaka, from 17 July to 8 August 2002. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained satisfactorily.

The audit of the interim accounts for the year 2002 will be conducted by the auditor from India in May 2003.

The Financial Statement for the 2000-2001 biennium and the provisional interim accounts for the year 2002 has been given.

Financial Statement

[2000-2001 Biennium and 2002 of the 2002-2003 Biennium]

Figure in US\$

Head of Accounts	Eleventh Biennium 2000-2001 (Actual)			2002 (Provisional Interim Accounts)		
	General Fund	Trust Fund	Total	General Fund	Trust fund	Total
Income						
- Member Country Contributions	906,906	-	906,906	437,286	-	437,286
- Donor Contributions: Japan, India, FAO, IDRC, Common. Sect., FASID, IFAD, BIRD, UNESCO, IADB, NABARD JICA- Jakarta, NIRD and other donor countries/agencies	-	876,179	876,179	-	256,248	256,248
- Miscellaneous Income (G. Fund)	148,550	-	148,550	24,885	-	24,885
- Special Reserve Fund for Programmes	-	69,983	69,983	-	-	-
Total Income	1,055,456	946,162	2,001,618	462,171	256,248	718,419
Expenditure						
- Administrative Expenditure	1,012,786	-	1,012,786	444,404		444,404
Project Expenditure :						
- Research Projects	-	104,355	104,355	-	17,472	17,472
- Pilot Projects	-	464,935	464,935	-	2,989	2,989
- Training Projects	-	153,600	153,600	-	56,527	56,527
- Information & Comm. Projects	-	43,022	43,022	-	7,547	7,547
- Others from D.R.F		832	832	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	1,012,786	766,744	1,779,530	444,404	84,535	528,939

CIRDAP Agenda for 2002-2007

CIRDAP in 1979 emerged from a felt need among the developing countries at that time to have an intergovernmental organisation that would take up an important task of promoting and strengthening integrated rural development. Since then, it remains wedded to supporting the rural development and poverty reduction efforts of its member countries.

Consistent with the mandate given to CIRDAP, it has been assigned the broad roles of (a) assisting national action of member countries and promoting regional cooperation; (b) servicing institution for member countries; (c) encouraging joint collaborative activities which will benefit the members collectively or individually; and (d) promoting and speeding up poverty alleviation measures through people's participation in the development process. While these broad roles guide the overall activities of the Centre, these roles are translated into operational programmes or activities involving research, pilot projects, training, and information and communication activities.

Within these broad roles, CIRDAP has to direct its efforts and resources to services and programmes where it can provide relevant assistance to member countries while at the same time it remains consistent with its role and within its organisational capacity and resources.

The Centre's operational framework is guided by its vision and mission, which clearly focused on helping improve the quality of life of the rural poor through cooperative efforts with the CMCs. It operates following the principles of: establishing tripartite alliance in programme implementation, practising a participatory process in planning and decision making, and ensuring transparency, cost-effectiveness and resource-sharing arrangement in its operation.

It is clear that as a regional rural development organisation, CIRDAP's strategic role is to assume a stronger role in helping address the issues of the rural-urban disparity that persists in all its member countries. In this regard, CIRDAP sees itself as having an important role in the following areas:

- Providing effective policy advice for rural development and poverty reduction
- Demonstrating best practices for rural development and poverty eradication
- Assisting in human resource development activities
- Facilitating information networking and resource sharing on developments and issues impacting on rural development and poverty reduction efforts in CMCs

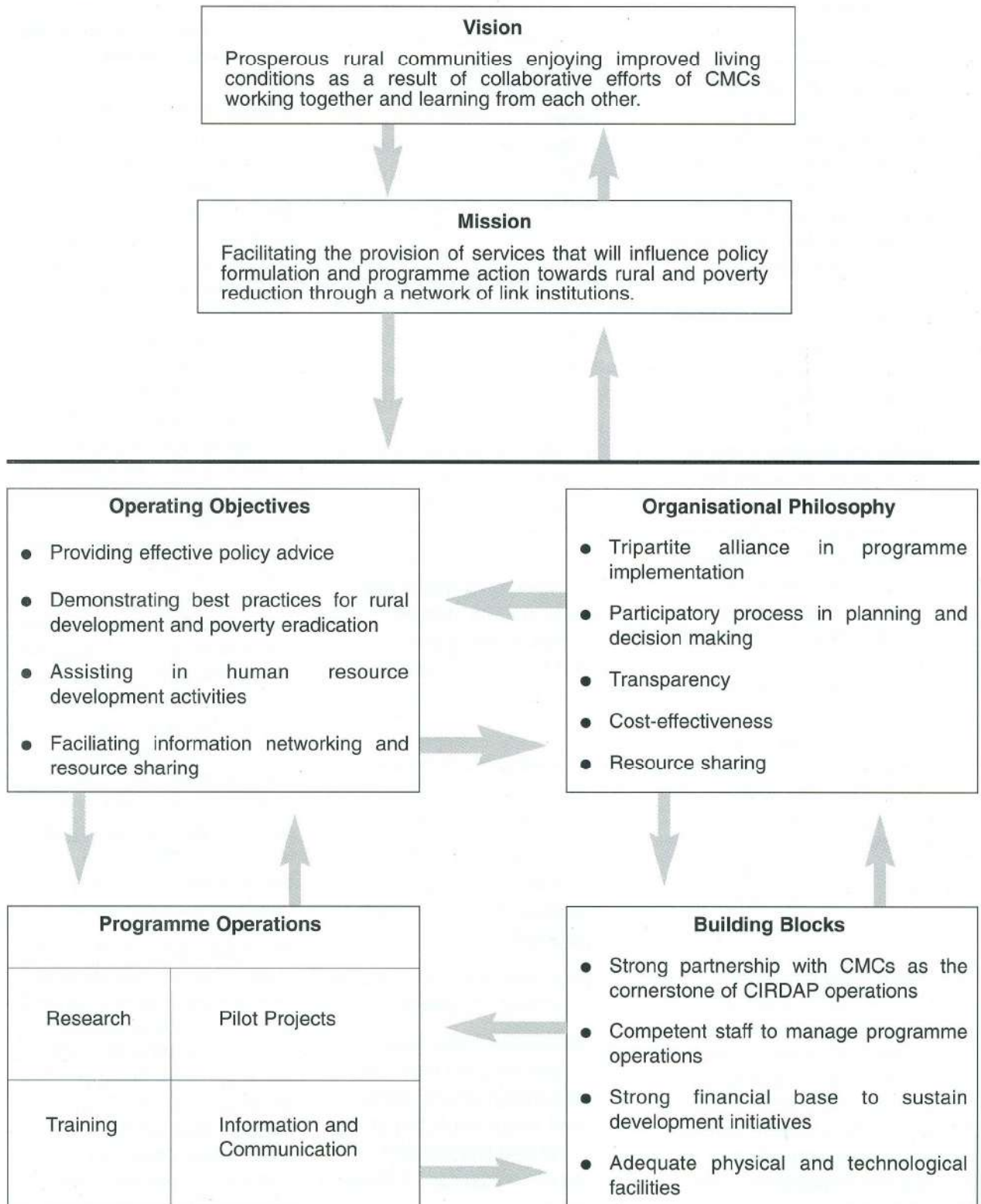
Programme Strategies

Effective Policy Advice on IRD and Poverty Reduction

In order to explicitly focus on rural poverty and design effective policies and programmes for rural development and poverty reduction, reliable information and analysis are needed on multidimensional issues of both the state and the processes of rural development and poverty. CIRDAP research studies are meant to understand the dynamics of socioeconomic changes in the rural poor society, factors associated with these changes and identification of areas that require policy improvements or change. The impact of research projects is neither always tangible, nor easily quantifiable and may not manifest itself in a short period of time. However, its usefulness cannot also be undermined. Besides, providing useful analysis into problem areas, policy research generates ideas or information for relevant activities, programme actions, training to address rural development and poverty reduction issues.

The implementation of forward-looking policies over the past decades has enabled the CMCs to achieve substantial progress in improving the quality of life of the rural people but such progress is far from the level that has been achieved in the urban areas. The issue of appropriate rural development policies that promote rural

CIRDAP Operational Framework



growth and reduction of poverty still remains a major research agenda to pursue in the years to come. The research agenda, therefore, includes:

- Policy research on pro-poor and pro-rural strategies that promote rural-urban balance and opportunities for the rural areas;
- Improving access to productive employment in rural farming, nonfarm activities, informal sector and micro-enterprise development;
- Strengthening the poor people's social protection and extension of basic social services;
- Creating opportunities for self-organisation and development;
- Ensuring sociopolitical participation and human rights to influence decision-making processes;
- The social dimension of structural adjustments, globalisation and liberalisation and their impact on the poor, including women;
- Technological advances and its impact on productivity, resources, farming systems, environment;
- Developmental role of grassroots institutions and NGOs as complements of state and market;
- Governance and gender issues; and
- Integration of disaster reduction and management with rural development and poverty reduction.

Demonstrating Best Practices on Rural Development and Poverty Reduction

One way of influencing programme action for rural development and poverty reduction is to generate field-level knowledge through pilot experimentation of different models or development interventions. The pilot projects are primarily concerned with evolving a replicable model for bringing about desired economic and social change in the villages in order to improve the quality of life of the rural poor. The ideas or models are tested to gain better insights into the processes involved in operationalising them at the community level.

The CIRDAP experience, lessons and outcomes of such experiments were instructive. The pilot projects, with its multicountry coverage offers a menu of rural development approaches which have demonstrated positive results in improving the well-being of rural communities. The approach proved to be viable, sustainable and adaptable to any given sociocultural context. The main 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 close cooperation of all agencies involved in community development. In more specific terms, the salient features of this approach are:

- The tripartite alliance of government, nongovernment organisations and the

community at the grassroots level to empower the poor and enable them to internalise the benefits of the project activities.

- The effective role of Village Development Committee in the implementation of the project.
- Development of village-level database by involving the villagers during the situation analysis, problem analysis, objective analysis, preparation of plan of operation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Emphasis on training and capacity building of the field-workers, beneficiaries, local-level functionaries as a means to increase the effectiveness of the project and empowering the community.
- People's participation in the management of seed money. The seed money is used by the poor villagers as a revolving fund to finance their IGAs.

In the medium-term, this approach remains relevant and helpful in influencing programme actions that affect the rural poor.

Training and Technical Assistance for Capacity Development of Rural Development Functionaries and IRD Institutions

An important asset of CMCs is its people. While in absolute terms human resource is plentiful in the rural areas, the quality of this asset and their well-being is poor. The policies and development programmes

formulated to assist them is just one avenue of improving their productivity and well-being. The other way is to engender a change in their awareness, behaviour and attitude so that they can become effective partners in development. Although CIRDAP does not work directly with the community in providing training and technical assistance, it works through rural development functionaries and institutions which have direct links with the community. It is through these rural development personnel that CIRDAP expects to contribute in enhancing the quality of human resource base in the rural areas.

The avenue for providing the support is through training and exchange of regional experience through policy dialogues, seminars, workshops and international meetings. However, to make the training assistance to be relevant and effective, CIRDAP has to undertake the following:

- During the first year of the next plan period, it shall develop a training framework that contributes towards a more systematic and logical development of training programmes, which are compatible with the interests and needs of member countries. This way the training activities are more effective and responsive to the emerging needs of rural development functionaries and institutions. Therefore, the training activities shall be jointly formulated with the CMCs;
- Promotion of technical cooperation and exchange

programmes through matching of available regional expertise with requirements of member countries; and

- Conduct of regional dialogues, workshops, seminars and conferences on major rural development and poverty reduction issues in which member countries can benefit from the cross-country experience.

Information Networking and Resource Sharing

Information is a valuable resource for understanding the developments in the rural areas and the efforts towards addressing the problems of rural poverty. CIRDAP is a relevant resource base for research studies in the field of rural development and poverty reduction in the CMCs. It sees itself as a key player in servicing the information needs of its member countries and the rural development community in the region. It has a pivotal role in bridging the exchange of information in rural development and poverty reduction efforts across countries.

With the availability of automation and electronic technologies in receiving and disseminating information, CIRDAP can very well enhance its efficiency as a rural development information resource centre. With CIRDAP and the link institutions electronically networked, the information exchange is greatly facilitated.

In the area of Networking for Information and Resource Sharing, the priorities for the next plan period will be:

- Upgrading the Rural Development Communications Network (RDCN) facilities, so that member countries can increasingly benefit in exchanging and accessing available and up-to-date rural development information electronically;
- Improving the content of the RDCN, so that innovative ideas and best practices in rural development are posted and disseminated amongst the member countries; and
- Expanding the network to tie with other relevant rural development institutions in the region as well as other parts of the world to keep abreast of the developments in other parts of the world.

In the area of documentation and communication, CIRDAP sees itself increasingly involved in:

- Documentation and dissemination of 'best practices' in rural development and poverty reduction initiatives in CMCs that have the potential or scope for replication;
- Improving the collection of literature, publications, books, studies on rural development and poverty reduction to remain as a major resource centre in the region; and
- Making CIRDAP publications available in electronic format for easy access and wider dissemination.

CIRDAP Staff Profile

Professional Staff



Dr. Mya Maung

[M.Sc., Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, U.K.; PhD, Ohio State University, U.S.A]
Director General
Myanmar

After completing his Bachelor of Agriculture degree from the University of Agriculture in Myanmar in 1965, Dr. Mya Maung served as a researcher at the Central Agricultural Research Institute and Executive Officer of the Agricultural and Rural Development Corporation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Myanmar through mid-seventies. He studied Applied Entomology at the Imperial College of London University, UK during 1973-76 where he obtained his M.Sc. degree. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in Entomology/Agriculture Education from Ohio State University in U.S.A. in 1989. Thereafter, Dr. Mya Maung served in several high-level positions including Agricultural Research and Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture, Myanmar. As an IRD expert, he was also assigned to perform a special duty on the development of the project Border Areas and National Races. He had been supervising integrated rural development activities in Myanmar as the Director General of the Department of Agricultural Planning since 1994 in cooperation with international organisations. Dr. Mya Maung took over the charge as Director General of CIRDAP in July 2000.



Dr. Muhammad Solaiman

[M.A., Dhaka; M.S.S. in Rural Development, ISS, The Hague, The Netherlands; PhD, Kyoto, Japan]
Director (Research)
Bangladesh

He is a sociologist and an expert in irrigation management, farmers' organisation, people's participation and evaluation of rural development issues. Dr. Solaiman has experience in coordination and management of research, training and development projects. He has authored/coauthored a number of research publications. Before joining the

Centre, he worked as Additional Director General at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Comilla, and as Director General at the Rural Development Academy, Bogra. Dr. Solaiman joined CIRDAP in September 1999.



Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao

[PhD in Economics, India]
Head (Training and ICD)
India

A well-known academic, Dr. Rao specialised in the fields of development policy, poverty alleviation, employment generation in the nonfarm sector, good governance and partnership building, and backward area development. He participated in the activities of several national and international organisations as a researcher and a resource person. He was short-term UN Consultant for UCB in Kampala; Visiting Faculty of Development Economics, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok; Visiting Fellow at ILGS, University of Birmingham; National Resource Person for poverty alleviation training in Asia and the Pacific (IFAD-assisted projects in India) and Expert Committee Member of some ministries (HRD, S&T etc.) in India. He worked as a faculty in the National Institute for Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET) of India. Dr. Rao has organised more than 30 international training programmes, and directed a number of research studies. He also authored/coauthored many books and papers. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked as Director at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India. Dr. Rao has joined CIRDAP in January 2002.



Dr. M.A. Momin

[M.Sc. Ukraine, CIS; PhD, Baroda, India]
Programme Officer (Pilot Projects)
Bangladesh

A development economist, Dr. Momin has authored a number of books and research articles on poverty

and rural development. He has worked as a consultant with ADB, SDC, the Planning Commission and several ministries of the Government of Bangladesh. He also worked with the World Food Programme of the United Nations as an Evaluation Officer. His areas of specialisation are Poverty Alleviation and Microcredit. Also, at CIRDAP, Dr. Momin briefly worked as an Officer on Special Duty in the Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit and as Administrative Officer. He has been working as Programme Officer, Pilot Projects Division since October 1999. Dr. Momin joined CIRDAP in January 1981.



Mr. Devi Prasad Mazumder
[B.A. (Hons.), M.A. in Economics, Chittagong; Post-graduate Diploma in Journalism, London]
Administrative Officer
Bangladesh

Now in Administration, his expertise is on development-support communication, and participatory project cycle management. Briefly worked as a consultant, UNDP and a specialist at INFEP and NMIDP at national level. Mr. Mazumder is skilled in training of trainers and group organisers; participatory extension and education; and project management and development. He has also worked in a Danish research project on pauperisation of women in Bangladesh; then in the research projects of CIRDAP as a project staff since 1980 prior to his formal joining in September 1982. At CIRDAP, Mr. Mazumder substantially worked in Information and Communication, and Training as a faculty member. He is in the present position since September 2000.



Mr. Hanif Mahammed
[B.Com (Hons.), M. Com. in Accounting, Dhaka University]
Finance Officer
Bangladesh

He worked in the finance divisions of a number of leading international and national organisations. Prior to joining the Centre, he served CARE, a leading international NGO, as Finance Officer at its

Bangladesh Headquarters, and worked as Station Manager-Finance and Accounts in GSS (Gono Sahajjo Sangstha), a leading national NGO, for a couple of years. Mr. Hanif joined CIRDAP in April 2000.



Mr. Abdur Rashid Meah
[M.A. in Library Science, Dhaka University]
Librarian
Bangladesh

Prior to joining the Centre, he worked as Librarian, Regional Telecommunication Training School, T&T Department, Atomic Energy Commission and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh. Mr. Rashid joined CIRDAP in May 1980. Presently, he is working on contractual term after his retirement from the service as a regular staff.



Mr. Shafiqur Rahman
[M.Sc., Dhaka]
Programme Associate
(Statistics)
Bangladesh

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 coauthored a number of research articles and publications of the Centre. Mr. Rahman joined CIRDAP in May 1986.



Mr. David Hilton

[B.S.S. (Hons.) & M.S.S., J.U., Bangladesh;
M.S. in Economic Dev., Eastern University, USA]
Pilot Projects Associate
Bangladesh

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he served as Training Officer for two years and later Research and Evaluation Officer for three years in World Vision of Bangladesh (an international NGO). Worked as an Intern Consultant in two nonprofit 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, monitoring and evaluation focusing on PRA and focus group method. Experienced in doing Participatory Impact Monitoring, Participatory Project Cycle Management and Project Design Matrix. He also participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. Mr. David joined CIRDAP in March 1998.



Mr. Safiul Azam

[B. Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc. in Statistics,
Chittagong University]
Assistant Protocol Officer
Bangladesh

He has a good experience in organising travel and tour, international seminar, workshop, conference etc. To accomplish his protocol duties, he has to get in touch with the high-ranking officials and dignitaries home and abroad. Mr. Azam has to arrange travel facilities for the CIRDAP staff as well as CMC dignitaries. He also has to contact the diplomatic missions in Dhaka for passports, visas and other travel documents for the CIRDAP delegates coming from abroad. Mr. Azam joined CIRDAP in March 1991.



Mr. Nathan Sarker

[M.A., Dhaka University]
Computer Programmer
Bangladesh

He is an expert in database management, webpage development and office automation. Mr. Sarker is

trainer/facilitator of CIRDAP PopMap and CDS/ISIS training programmes. As a computer specialist and resource person, he has been actively involved in national and international computer training programmes home and abroad. He is especially trained in handling e-commerce and virtual conferencing through Pan Asia Networking, Singapore. CIRDAP is a Content Partner of Pan Asia Networking, and Mr. Sarker is the Contact Person. He occasionally works as a part-time teacher at various academic institutions. Mr. Sarker joined CIRDAP in December 1997.



Ms. Zeenat Ahmed

[B.S.S. (Hons.), M.S.S. in Economics,
Dhaka University]
Assistant Information and
Communication Officer
Bangladesh

She has experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and information management. Ms. Zeenat is also trained in economic modelling, growth and poverty issues. In CIRDAP, she has served as Training Associate, Project Associate (publications), and Research Associate. Since April 2000, she has been serving as Assistant Information and Communications Officer. Prior to joining the Centre, she briefly worked in Independent University of Bangladesh. Ms. Zeenat joined CIRDAP in August 1994.



Mr. S M Saifuddin

[B.A. (Hons.), M.A. in Mass Communication and Journalism,
Dhaka University;
M.S. in English Studies, National University, Dhaka]
Publication Assistant
Bangladesh

With his primary background in the field of journalism, Mr. Saifuddin developed his expertise on editing and page make-up. He has edited several publications of CIRDAP. Equipped with knowledge on DTP software packages, he has a good experience in printing and publishing line. As a Sub-Editor, he worked in the English daily The Daily Star for about eight years. Mr. Saifuddin joined CIRDAP in December 2000.

General Service Staff

Mr. Siddiqur Rahman	:	Senior Secretary
Mr. Jahangir Selim	:	Photographer-cum-Artist
Mr. S. Sen Gupta	:	Property & Supply Assistant
Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	:	Senior Secretary
Mr. M.S. Patwary	:	Secretary
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	:	Secretary
Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan	:	Secretary
Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed	:	Finance Assistant
Mr. Shamsul Huda	:	Clerk-Typist
Mr. Akramullah	:	Cashier
Mr. Qazi Abu Zafar Mohd. Tipu	:	Filing Assistant
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	:	Computer Operator
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	:	Typist
Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam	:	Machine Operator
Mr. Abu Taher	:	Driver
Mr. Sunil K. Barua (Singha)	:	Driver
Mr. Abu Sohel Akhter	:	Driver
Mr. Abdul Momin	:	Cook
Mr. Shankar Ch. Das	:	Janitor
Mr. Belayet Hossain(1)	:	Watchman
Ms. Rezia Begum	:	Messenger
Mr. Bishu Ch. Das	:	Janitor
Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed	:	Messenger
Mr. Jahangir Alam	:	Bearer-Cook

Temporary Staff

Mr. Sirajul Hoque	:	Private Secretary to DG (retired)
Mr. Mostafa Kamal	:	Reception Assistant
Md. Manzoor	:	Driver
Mr. Mofizul Islam Sarkar	:	Driver
Mr. Narayan Ch. Mondal	:	Janitor
Mr. Abdur Rahman Mollah	:	Gardener
Mr. Shibu K. Mullik	:	Janitor
Mr. Dianat Khan	:	Cook
Mr. Belayet Hossain (2)	:	Janitor
Mr. Sujit Ch. Das	:	Janitor
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	:	Messenger
Mr. Delwar Hossain	:	Janitor
Mr. Ramjan Ali	:	Cook
Ms. Jahura Khatun	:	Housekeeper-cum-Cleaner

Abbreviation & Acronym

AARDO	Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation	HARTI	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute
ADB	Asian Development Bank	HDI	Human Development Index
AIM	Asian Institute of Management	HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	ICD	Information and Communication Division
APO	Asian Productivity Organisation	IDRC	International Development Research Centre
ARBs	Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries	IGAs	Income-Generating Activities
ARCs	Agrarian Reform Communities	ILO	International Labour Organisation
ASA	Association for Social Advancement	INFEP	Integrated Non-Formal Education Programme
AV	Audio Visual	IRD	Integrated Rural Development
BARBD	Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development	IT	Information Technology
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	KDP	Kacamatan Development Programme
BIRD	Bankers Institute of Rural Development	LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	LGU	Local Government Unit
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	MADB	Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank
CARD	CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development	MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme	MOAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	MVRD	Model Villages in Rural Development
CDD	CIRDAP Development Digest	NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
CDS/ISIS	Computerised Documentation system/ Integrated Set of Information System	NGAs	Non-Government Agencies
CI ROAP	Consumers International, Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific	NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
CIPS	Community Information and Planning System	NISIET	National Institute for Small Industry Extension Training
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific	NMIDP	National Minor Irrigation Development Programme
CLIs	CIRDAP Link Institutions	OSM	Organisation Study Mission
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	PBD	Programme Beneficiaries Development
CSYP	CIRDAP Six-Year Plan	PCARRD	People's Council for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	PKSF	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
DAP	Department of Agricultural Planning	PPCM	Participatory Project Cycle Management
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	PPD	Pilot Projects Division
DDG	Deputy Director General	PSMD	Product Social Marketing Division
DG	Director General	RD	Rural Development
DGCVE	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment	RDA	Rural Development Academy
DTP	Desk Top Publication	RDCN	Rural Development Communication Network
EC	Executive Committee	RDTRI	Rural Development Training Institute
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	RRA/PRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal/ Participatory Rural Appraisal
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	SERP	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
FBCRD	Farmers Bayanihan Centres for Rural Development	SHG	Self-Help Group
GC	Governing Council	SHISUK	Shikkha Shastha Unnayan Karzakram [Educational and Health Development Programme]
GO	Government Organisation	SOCSEA	Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
GOI	Government of Indonesia	TC	Technical Committee
		UMG	Universalia Management Group
		UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
		UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
		WIN	Women Information Network

Selected Socioeconomic

	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Malaysia
Capital	Kabul	Dhaka	Delhi	Jakarta	Vientiane	Kuala Lumpur
Currency	Afghani	Taka	Ind. Rupee	Rupiah	New Kip	Ringgit
Area (th. sq.km)	652.1	144	3288	1905	237	330
Popul. (mil) 2002	23.4	143.4	1051.6	217.6	5.5	24.1
Pop ⁿ density (per sq. km) 2000	34	1000	337	116	23	71
Ann. pop ⁿ growth rate (%) 2001	3.6	2.1	1.5	1.2	2.3	1.8
GNP per capita (\$) 2000	-	370	450	570	290	3380
GDP growth rate (%) 2001	-	6.0	5.4	3.3	5.7	0.4
GDP share, 2000						
% Agriculture	-	23.3	24.7	16.4	51.3	8.4
% Industry	-	25.0	26.4	46.5	23.7	49.6
% Service	-	51.7	48.8	37.1	25.0	41.9
Rural Population (%) 2002	77	74	71	57	75	41
RUDI Rank	-	6	9	8	12	1
1999 Value	-	26.135	39.055	30.285	51.917	12.498
HDI Rank	-	145	124	110	143	59
2000 Value	-	0.478	0.577	0.684	0.485	0.782
HPI-1 Rank	89	72	55	33	64	13('99)
2000 Value	-	42.4	33.1	18.8	39.1	10.9('99)
Pop ⁿ . below poverty line (nat.) (%) 1987-2000	-	35.6	35.0	27.1	46.1	15.5
Adult literacy rate (%) 2000	36('99)	41.3	57.2	86.9	48.7	87.5
Life expectancy at birth (yrs) 2000	42.5	59.4	63.3	66.2	53.5	72.5
Matern. mortality ratio 1980-99	-	440	410	450	650	39
Female economic activity rate (%) 2000	-	66.3	42.1	55.2	74.4	48.4
Infant mortal rate (th. live birth) 2002	162	68	66	40	93	8('00)
Pop ⁿ using improved water source (%) 2000	-	97	88	76	90	95
Pop ⁿ using adequate sanitation (%) 2000	-	53	31	66	46	98

Source: ADB, UNDP, ESCAP, World Bank and CIRDAP

Indicators of CIRDAP Member Countries

Myanmar	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Yangon	Kathmandu	Islamabad	Manila	Colombo	Bangkok	Hanoi
Kyat	Nep. Rupee	Pak. Rupee	Peso	SL. Rupee	Baht	New Dong
677	147	796	300	66	513	332
50.6	24.1	149.1	78.7	18.9	63.4	80.6
73	160	178	263	295	122	239
1.2	2.3	2.6	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.3
-	240	440	1040	850	2000	390
-	4.9	3.3	3.2	-1.5	1.8	6.8
67.1('00)	38.6	25.0	15.1	19.4	8.6	24.3('00)
0.4('00)	22.2	23.0	31.6	26.6	42.1	36.6('00)
12.5('00)	39.2	52.0	53.3	54.1	49.3	39.1('00)
71	87	62	40	75	69	80
2	11	10	3	7	4	5
5.863	46.264	40.176	20.888	27.403	23.721	23.781
127	142	138	77	89	70	109
0.552	0.490	0.499	0.754	0.741	0.762	0.688
44	76	68	23	31	21	43
27.2	43.4	41.0	14.6	17.6	14.0	27.1
-	42.0	34.0	36.8	25.0	13.1	50.9
84.7	41.8	43.2	95.3	91.6	95.5	93.4
56.0	58.6	60.0	69.3	72.1	70.2	68.2
230	540	340	170	60	44	160
65.8	56.7	35.3	49.5	42.9	73.3	73.8
88	72	85	30	20	21	34
68	81	88	87	83	80	56
46	27	61	83	83	96	73

Recent CIRDAP Publications

- **Empowerment of Women in CIRDAP Member Countries: Experiences and Issues.** Study Series No. 195. CIRDAP 2003.
- **Community Initiative for Fisheries Development: *An Evaluation of the Pankowri Fishery Project in Daudkandi, Bangladesh.*** Study Series No. 194. CIRDAP 2002.
- **Report of the National Workshop on Integrated Programme to strengthen Agricultural Delivery System.** Study Series No. 193. CIRDAP 2002.
- **Report on CIRDAP-BBS Regional Seminar on Poverty Monitoring.** Study Series No. 192. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Government-NGO Collaboration for Poverty Alleviation.** Study Series No. 191. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Economic Reforms, Natural Resources and Environment in Bangladesh.** MAP Focus Study Series No. 13. CIRDAP 2001.
- **Efficacy of Alternative Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Bangladesh.** MAP Focus Study Series No. 12. CIRDAP 2001.
- **Savings and Farm Investment in Bangladesh: An Analysis of Rural Households.** MAP Focus Study Series No. 11. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Rural Urban Migration and Poverty: The Case for Reverse Migration in Bangladesh.** MAP Focus Study Series No. 10. CIRDAP 2001.
- **Interlinkages of Agricultural Diversification in Bangladesh.** MAP Focus Series No. 9. CIRDAP 2001.
- **Enhancing Ownership and Sustainability æA Resource Book on Participation.** A joint production of IFAD, CIRDAP and other partners. The publication documents experiences with participatory processes in project design, implementation and evaluation of NGOs and IFAD-funded projects. 2001.
- **Towards Empowering Women: Microcredit and Social Mobilization.** Report of Workshop on Capacity Building and Empowerment of Women self-help group through Microcredit and Social Mobilization, 23-25 February 2000, Bangkok. Action Research Series No. 27. CIRDAP 2001.
- **Fighting Poverty with Microfinance.** Report of the seminar on Sustainable Local Community Development and the Role of Micro-credit in Rural Development, 22-23 March 1999, Bangkok, Thailand. Action Research Series No. 26. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Report of the In-country Training on Environment and Rural Development,** 6-11 December 1999. Training Series No. 70. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Report of CIRDAP – LDTA – APO Sub-Regional Training Course on Participatory Techniques for Planning and Management of Rural Development Projects,** 17-26 November 1999, Nepal. Training Series No. 69. CIRDAP 2002.
- **Report of the In-country Training Programme on Planning and Management Rural Development Projects: PRA/PCM,** 5-10 October 1999, Sri Lanka. Training Series No. 67. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Report of the Exposure Visit on Micro-finance in Bangladesh for Delegates from Banker's Institute for Rural Development (BIRD) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), India,** 23-30 May 1999. Training Series No. 66. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Report of the CIRDAP – Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan Workshop on Participatory Approaches to Project Cycle Management,** 01-12 April 1999, Bangladesh. Training Series No. 63. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Report of the Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Microfinance in Bangladesh for Delegates from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), India (Batch – I),** 17-26 March 1999. Training Series No. 61. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD):** Volume XI, No.2. December 2001.
- **Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD):** Volume XI, No. July 2001.
- **Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD):** Volume X, No.2. December 2000.
- **Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD):** Volume X, No.1. July 2000.

Publications available in CD ROM

- **Savings and Farm Investment in Bangladesh Households.** MAP Focus Study Series No. 11. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Model Villages in Rural Development: The Country Reports of Southeast Asia,** Volume II. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Government-NGO Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation.** Study Series No. 191. CIRDAP 2000.
- **Reducing Poverty in Asia: issues in Micro-credit.** Study Series No. 189. CIRDAP 1999.
- **Rural Development Report 1999.** Study Series No. 187. CIRDAP 1999.
- **Abstracts of Articles published in the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD),** 1991-2000.

Regional IRD Network
Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Name of Countries</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
AFGHANISTAN	Foreign Relations Division Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development Share-Naw, Kabul	Foreign Relations Division Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development Share-Naw, Kabul
BANGLADESH	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Kotbari, Comilla	Rural Development & Cooperatives Division Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Development and Cooperatives Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
INDIA	National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) Rajendranagar, Hyderabad	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 110 001
INDONESIA	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment (DGCVE) Ministry of Home Affairs Jalan Raya Pasar Minggu, Km19 Jakarta	Ministry of Home Affairs Medan Merdeka Utara No. 7 Jakarta
LAO PDR	Department of Agriculture (DOA) Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry P.O. Box 811, Vientiane	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry P.O. Box - 811, Vientiane
MALAYSIA	Ministry of Agriculture Jalan Sultan Salahuddin Kuala Lumpur	Ministry of Agriculture Jalan Sultan Salahuddin Kuala Lumpur
MYANMAR	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Thiri Mingalar Lane Yangon	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Thiri Mingalar Lane Yangon
NEPAL	Local Development Training Academy (LTDA) P.O. Box – 11980 Jawalakhe, Lalitpur	Ministry of Local Development Shree Mahal, Pulchowk Lalitpur, Kathmandu
PAKISTAN	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development & Municipal Administration Park Road, Chak Shahzad Islamabad	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development Block-4, G-6 Old Naval HQ Building Islamabad
PHILIPPINES	Project Development & Management Staff Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) 3/F DAR Building Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) 4/F DAR Building Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
SRI LANKA	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) 114 Wijerama Mawatha P.O. Box 1522, Colombo	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Govijana Mandiraya Rajamalwatta Avenue Battaramulla
THAILAND	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok	Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives Rajadamnern Avenue Bangkok
VIETNAM	Department of Agricultural & Rural Development Policy Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Dev. 2, Ngoc ha Street, Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 2, Ngoc ha Street, Bach Thao Hanoi

