

VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities

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Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

An Intergovernmental & Autonomous Organization Working For
Strengthening Integrated Rural Development Systems for 15
Asia and The Pacific Countries.

 www.cirdap.org

Climate-resilient Food Security and Safety for Sustainable Rural Development

Climate-resilient food security and safety comes through building systems that can withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change, ensuring food availability and access for all. This involves promoting Climate Smart Agricultural practices, diversifying food sources, and strengthening social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations.

Asia and the Pacific are home for more than 60% of the global population. More than half of the population of Asia Pacific countries lives in rural areas, and more than 60 % percent of rural population depends on Agriculture. On an average, 16 percent of the GDP of these countries contributed by Agriculture, which includes Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry. Hence, Climate Action is critical for the Agriculture dependent Asia Pacific Economy.

Present food grains production in the region is 1313 MT in 2021, with half a billion population being under nourished as per FAO and by 2050, the food grain production need to be increased by 77% to meet the demand whereas the climate change is expected to reduce food production by 15-20%. Hence, Climate resilient food security measures should find priority in the region.

Asia Pacific region, while responsible for 55 % of global greenhouse gas emissions, is highly vulnerable to climate change due to factors like extreme weather events, sea level rise, poverty, increasing temperature, and high reliance on climate-sensitive sectors ie Agriculture. Besides, in 2030, water requirement is set to exceed supply by 40% Studies identify Asia Pacific as one of the regions requiring substantial adaptation investments to address climate change risks. By investing \$ 2 trillion annually during 2022-30, the region could prevent projected damages and loss of GDP growth of Asia Pacific countries, providing substantial returns. However, limited control on climatic variations and limited resources pose big challenges in the way.

Key aspects of Climate-resilient food security and safety where we need to focus are Aggressive Promotion of Climate-smart Agriculture, Water Management, Soil health, Integrated Farming Systems, Community-based adaptation, Government and NGO support, Agrometeorological Extension services, Diversification of food sources, Improved access to food, Strengthening social safety nets, Investing in infrastructure and Climate action and Promotion of Secondary Agriculture.

In order to move forward, Mainstreaming Climate Resilient Agriculture in all developmental programs, Sensitization of Farmers, Investing in Research and Development, Strengthening partnerships, Incentivize Climate Resilient Agriculture promoters and programs, Promoting sustainable consumption, Popularizing Eco-friendly farming enterprises namely Bee Keeping, Millets, Bamboo, Plantation crops, Agri Tourism, solar farming and Agro Forestry may be expanded supported by branding and exporting

Climate change has no political boundaries, we need to work collectively

With Warm Wishes

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General, CIRDAP



Community Sensitization, Infrastructure and Marketing: Key for Success of Agri Tourism DG, CIRDAP in 18th International Conference on Agri Tourism



CIRDAP was pleased to participate in the International Conference on the 18th World Agri Tourism Day, held virtually on 15–16 May 2025, under the inspiring theme: “Innovating Agritourism for a Sustainable Future: Empowering Rural Economies and Preserving Cultures.” Organized by the Global Agri Tourism Network and the Agri Tourism Development Corporation, the event brought together a vibrant community of international experts, farmers, policymakers, and innovators to explore the transformative potential of Agritourism in Rural Development. The conference emphasized Agritourism’s growing role in economic revitalization, cultural preservation, and sustainable tourism. H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, was honored as Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. In his speech, Dr. Shekara reaffirmed CIRDAP’s commitment to promoting integrated rural development and Agritourism across the Asia-Pacific region. He underscored the significance of collaborative platforms in driving innovation, empowering rural communities, and safeguarding indigenous cultural practices through sustainable tourism models. The Chief Guest

emphasized the role of Community Sensitization, Infrastructure, and Marketing for the Success of Agri Tourism. The conference served as a global platform for sharing best practices, discussing future standards, and fostering strategic partnerships to advance Agritourism worldwide. 804 participants representing 47 countries attended the International Conference. Mr. Pandurang Taware, India, who was convener of the Conference announced Global Awards and explained the future roadmap.

CIRDAP's Upcoming International Publication on "Rural Tourism in Asia and the Pacific: Concept, Practices and Opportunities"



CIRDAP is proud to announce the release of its forthcoming international publicationon “Rural Tourism in Asia and the Pacific: Concept, Practices and Opportunities” that explores how rural tourism can drive sustainable development, empower communities, and preserve cultural heritage across Asia and the Pacific.

Developed under the CIRDAP-INFRA International Training Programme held in Penang, Malaysia (Oct 2024), this insightful book features:

- ✦ 10 Articles by 19 Authors from 5 Asia-Pacific countries
 - ✦ Real-world case studies & adaptable strategies
 - ✦ Practical tools for policymakers, practitioners & tourism professionals
 - ✦ A powerful vision for inclusive rural development
- 📌 Actionable knowledge for policymakers, researchers, rural development professionals & tourism stakeholders, this book is an indispensable resource to harness the potential of rural tourism in transforming lives and livelihoods.

PRE-ORDER NOW and be a part of the movement toward sustainable rural development!

✓ VALID FOR ALL PREPAID ORDERS UP TO 30 November 2025

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Strengthening Regional Ties: DG CIRDAP Meets Excellency Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council and Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



On 21 May 2025, a warm and forward-looking exchange took place as DG CIRDAP, H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, paid a courtesy visit to Excellency Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC) and Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The dialogue spotlighted CIRDAP's dynamic initiatives with a shared vision for strategic collaboration and innovation, both leaders discussed ongoing initiatives and future directions to deepen regional cooperation. The dialogue reaffirmed CIRDAP's unwavering commitment to empowering rural communities through partnerships, knowledge exchange, and collective action.

**CIRDAP Knowledge Series-42
Webinar on Secondary Agriculture by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Agriculture Expert, India**



'Secondary Agriculture: How to make a beginning - Policies, Programmes and innovations'

Thursday, May 8, 2025

11:00 AM (Bangladesh Time)
10:30 AM (India Time)

[Click here for zoom link](#)

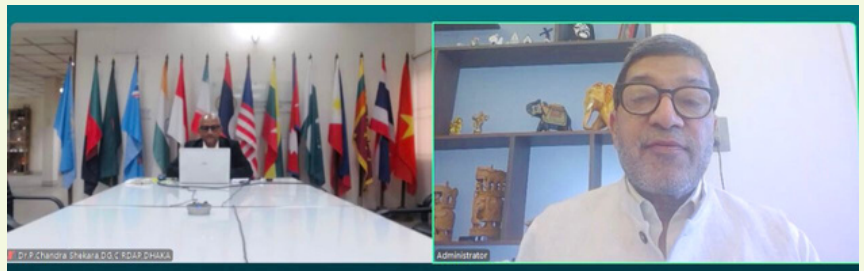


Centre on Integrated Rural Development
for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)



**Honorable Speaker
Dr. Ashok Dalwai**

Chairman, Prime Minister
Committee on Doubling of
Farmers' Income, Ministry of
Agriculture, Govt. of India. IAS
Officer (Retd.)



CIRDAP successfully hosted its Knowledge Series-42 Webinar on "Secondary Agriculture: How to Make a Beginning - Policies, Programmes and Innovations" on 8th May 2025, featuring eminent speaker Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Agriculture Expert, Chairman of the Prime Minister Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income, Govt. of India. The session explored a range of critical themes including sustainability, climate change, co-product utilization, value chain integration, the bio economy, and digital innovations in agriculture. Emphasizing job-led growth, farmer welfare, and the transformative potential of Secondary Agriculture, the event brought together engaged experts and participants from CIRDAP Member Countries. HE Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, chaired the session.



CIRDAP proudly joined the global dialogue on sustainable food systems at the 7th International Scientific Conference on Food Safety and Health (ISCFSH), held on 10 May 2025 at the BARC Auditorium in Dhaka. Hosted by the Bangladesh Society for Safe Food (BSSF), the high-profile event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Farida Akhter, Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock of Bangladesh. A major highlight of the conference was the keynote address by H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, who delivered a compelling speech on the theme “Climate-Resilient

Food Security and Safety.” Dr. Shekara stressed the urgent need to transform food systems in the face of climate change, championing solutions such as climate-smart agriculture, integrated farming, eco-friendly enterprises, social safety nets, and community-based innovations. With agriculture forming the backbone of Bangladesh’s economy, CIRDAP reiterated its call for bold investments in research, stronger public-private partnerships, and greater farmer empowerment to ensure a future that is both food-secure and climate-resilient.

The conference was organized by Dr. Mohammad Sorwar Jahan, General Secretary of BSSF, and Dr. Khaled Hossain, President of BSSF. The event brought together national and international experts, researchers, academicians, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the pressing challenges that climate change poses to food systems.



CIRDAP– Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Research Project in Nepal Makes Headway

CIRDAP, in collaboration with the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal under the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), successfully conducted the third impactful session of its ongoing project, “Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to Implement Gender Responsive Budget (GRB),” during 8 to 9 May 2025 at Gramthan Rural Municipality, Morang, Koshi Province, Nepal. This dynamic training brought together 35 enthusiastic participants—14 women and 21 men—including 19 elected representatives and 16 rural municipal staff—demonstrating strong local commitment to inclusive governance. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Kanunlal Chaudhary, Executive Director of LDTA, and expertly coordinated by Mr. Jaya Krishna Shrestha, Director, LDTA. With a focus on embedding gender equity in fiscal planning at the grassroots level, the session served as a vital step toward building more responsive and equitable local governance in Nepal.



Join the CIRDAP-NEDAC
International Training Programme on
'Startups, Technology,
Entrepreneurship & Partnerships for
Vibrant Agri-Cooperatives' on 21-23
July, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



Designed for Agri-Professionals, Cooperative Leaders, Agri Startups, and Policymakers, this immersive program covers:

- Learn from global experts & successful entrepreneurs
- Discover cutting-edge tech like AI, IoT & Blockchain in Agriculture
- Network with industry leaders & Cooperative professionals
- Empower your cooperative with innovation & strategic collaborations
- Global Case Studies & Best Practices
- Leadership & Entrepreneurial Development

Be part of the transformation. Equip yourself with the tools and insights to lead Agri-Coops into a smarter, sustainable future. 📖 For more details check out the full brochure and application form and be a part of the Agri-revolution!

https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/CIRDAP-NEDAC_Collaborative_International_Training_Programme_21-23_July_2025_Revised.pdf

<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/CIRDAP-NEDAC-Application-Form-18-4-2025.pdf>

📖 **Innovation begins when Agri meets Entrepreneurship- Don't miss this transformative opportunity!**

Forthcoming CIRDAP Publications

CIRDAP is planning to bring out these two International Publications, Your esteemed contribution in the form of an article (approximately 10 pages) would be a valuable addition, enriching the content with your insights and expertise. Please share your articles to Ms. Hurain Jannat at her email: communication_officer@cirdap.org

International Publication on 'Disaster Management and Climate change adaptation in Asia and Pacific: Policies, Programmes, Approaches and Learnings'

International Publications on 'Innovations in Rural Development in Asia and Pacific'

IRD Model 9: The Grameen Bank Model:
A Pathway to Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment

Founded in 1983 by Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank revolutionized access to finance for the rural poor in Bangladesh. Rooted in Dr. Yunus's efforts during the 1974 famine, the bank pioneered microcredit—offering collateral-free loans to empower the economically marginalized, especially women.



Core Principles and Reach

Grameen Bank operates on group-based lending, trust, and mutual accountability. Today, it serves over 10.69 million borrowers—97% women—across 81,678 villages, disbursing \$39.87 billion with a repayment rate of 95.94%. It goes beyond banking by promoting education, health, housing, and entrepreneurship.

Key Initiatives

- Struggling Member Program: Over 21,000 beggars transitioned to sustainable livelihoods.
- Scholarships: Supporting children's education, particularly girls.
- Disaster Relief & Tree Plantation: Building resilience and promoting environmental sustainability.

Measuring Impact

Grameen assesses poverty alleviation through 10 indicators, such as access to housing, clean water, education, savings, and healthcare. A member is considered to have moved out of poverty if their family meets these benchmarks.

Financial Products

Grameen offers diverse loan types (basic, enterprise, agriculture, education) and savings options (pension, fixed deposit, welfare schemes), designed to support the varied needs of rural communities.

Training & Global Influence

Grameen's training programs attract global practitioners, with hands-on learning designed to inspire microfinance innovation worldwide. Its "16 Decisions" promote holistic development—emphasizing discipline, hygiene, education, and environmental stewardship.

Future Outlook

As it embraces digital technologies, Grameen Bank remains committed to its mission: empowering the poor through inclusive finance. Its model continues to inspire global efforts in poverty reduction, proving that access to credit can transform lives.

Reference: <https://grameenbank.org.bd/>

**CIRDAP - NIRDPR Collaborative
International Training Programme on
“Institutional Innovations in Rural
Development: Policies to Practices -
Learnings”**

**On 15-22 June, 2025,
Hyderabad, India**



The programme aims to

- Facilitate the exchange of experiences and strategies regarding Rural Development policies and institutional innovations across CMCs.
- Serve as a catalyst for sustainable rural economic growth by fostering collaborative learning and policy insights.
- Promote innovation, resilience and inclusive rural development across the region.
- Share best practices, especially those from India, to improve the design and implementation of rural development programmes.

This platform will provide an opportunity for the participants, primarily heads of national rural development institutes, to share and learn from various institutional innovations that can contribute to overcoming development challenges in Rural Development and capacity building of the institutions.



Attention To The CIRDAP EXPERTS

CIRDAP would like to seek the support of the CIRDAP Experts for their greater involvement in enriching the lives of Rural Communities on CIRDAP platform.

Experts are invited to contribute in the following ways:

1. Provide updated information as indicated below. This reply will be treated as Experts renewed interest in CIRDAP Activities:

Name, Designation, Office, Contact detail, Photo, Country, No. of years of Experience, Areas of Expertise in Integrated Rural Development (Mention only FIVE important areas) and Complete CV.

2. A monthly e-bulletin 'Voice of CIRDAP' has been started by CIRDAP which is reaching 1.18 lakh stakeholders covering member countries every month. Experts are requested to give at least one Innovation on Rural Development with good photos in not more than one page for publication.

3. Please provide 2-3 minutes video on any innovation, experience in Rural Development which would be added to newly created CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

4. CIRDAP will be very happy to process/forward any of your national/International projects on Rural Development to funding agencies through **Project Facilitation Centre of CIRDAP. If approved, the project will be led by the expert who prepare the project.**

*You are requested to send all the above information to Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer, and CIRDAP Email: **communication_officer@cirdap.org** with copy to **chandradgcirdap@cirdap.org***



Subscribe and Follow us in Social Media
and support us to the RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is an Intergovernmental, Regional, and Autonomous organization. It was established on 6 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (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.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the date of 6 July as the World Rural Development Day, which is also the foundation day of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), as a recognition of the organizations significant role in sustainable rural development endeavors in its member states in the Asia-Pacific region. The World Rural Development Day will be celebrated every 6 July as to inform and to remind everyone on his/her role and responsibility for collaborative actions on integrated rural development to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up as a Centre of 15 member countries. The member-countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host Country), Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP are to:

- Assist National Action;
- Promote Regional Cooperation;
- and Act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion: Integrated Rural Development (IRD) through Research, Action Research, Pilot Project, 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:

- Agrarian Development;
- Institutional/ Infrastructural;
- Resource development, including human resources;
- and Employment.

Within these Areas of Concern, the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. Health, Education and Nutrition); Employment generation through Microcredit support, Infrastructure Development and Local resource mobilisation; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for Sustainable Rural Development.

Operating through designated 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 the Asia-Pacific region.

Voice of CIRDAP – Monthly E-Bulletin of CIRDAP

Voice of CIRDAP (VoC) is a monthly newsletter published by CIRDAP. The purpose of the VoC is to highlight various facets of IRD in the Asia-Pacific region and activities of CIRDAP with stakeholders.

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in VoC do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CIRDAP concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities or boundaries. News items, viewpoints on IRD and related issues are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor.



**Chameli House
The Headquarter of CIRDAP**



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