



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



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CIRDAP MEMBER COUNTRIES



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2024 marked a period of significant transformation for CIRDAP, highlighting key activities, notable achievements, and important challenges. As an Intergovernmental and autonomous organization, CIRDAP made its path stronger to strengthen its role in advancing Integrated Rural Development (IRD). Through collaborative efforts with its member countries, the organization made meaningful strides in reaching and positively impacting the lives of thousands of rural people across the Asia-Pacific region. All activities during the year were carried out in alignment with the approved Strategic Plan of CIRDAP.

One of the most significant developments of CIRDAP in 2024 was a change in leadership. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, an Indian national, assumed charge as the 10th Director General of CIRDAP on September 2024, succeeding Dr. Cherdsak Virapat, a Thai national, who successfully completed his four-year term (2020–2024). Dr. Shekara will serve CIRDAP for the term 2024 to 2028.

A landmark achievement for CIRDAP occurred - on 6 September 2024 - the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared 6 July as World Rural Development Day. This date, which coincides with CIRDAP's Foundation Day, was chosen in recognition of the organization's long-standing contributions to Integrated Rural Development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 39th Session of the Technical Committee meeting (TC-39) was held at Hatten Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia from 5-7 August, 2024. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia. As a part of the 39th TC Meeting, a National Symposium on Rural Planning & Development also was organized at the Dewan Damar Sari, Kompleks F8, Putrajaya on 8 August, 2024. The 34th Session of the Executive Committee (EC) Meeting was held on 4th-5th June 2024 and the 24th Session of the Governing Council (GC) Meeting on 6th June, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The EC-34 Meeting was co-chaired by Thailand and Vietnam whilst the GC-24 meeting was chaired by Bangladesh.

The three thematic programmes and four cross-cutting programmes of work have been implemented to support sustainable and integrated rural development and poverty alleviation through policy formulation and development and inter-governmental cooperation in the region. They are research on rural development and innovation, integrated rural development models; emerging issues on integrated rural development including natural disaster risk reduction, and climate change impacts, & water resource management as the thematic programmes and partnership cooperation and promotion; training & education; information & communication; and gender in integrated rural development as the cross-cutting programmes.

Under the Research division, the 2023 Rural Development Report (RDR) on '*Assessing the Role of Food and Nutrition Security Policies of the CMCs in Helping the Marginalized Poor and Attaining the Relevant SDGs*' completed and published in December 2024. Four Research

projects under the Women, Youth, and Rural Development Programme of CIRDAP are going on during this period – *‘Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to implement Gender Responsive Budget at selected Local Governments in Nepal’* implemented by CIRDAP & Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal; *‘Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood’* implemented by CIRDAP & National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India; *‘Improving Rural Women Sustainable Livelihood through Empowerment in Sericulture Value Chain’* implemented by CIRDAP & Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute, (APERDRI) IR Iran; and *‘Women and Youth Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Bottom-Up Approach’* implemented by CIRDAP & Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Sri Lanka.

Under the Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Models, to date, CIRDAP has exhibited 11 posters of the rural development models at the CIRDAP Exhibitions and Museum on Rural Development (CEMIRD) from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, IR Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand (including Lao PDR, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam). CIRDAP also successfully launched its international publication, *‘Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Models of Asia and Pacific Region,’* on June 19, 2025, at the NIRDPR Campus in Hyderabad, India. The book compiled transformative 32 IRD models to drive sustainable growth across rural Asia-Pacific. Also, through CIRDAP social Media pages (Facebook, X and LinkedIn) regular best practices and IRD models dissemination has been successfully occurred.

Under the Training and Education, CIRDAP under its capacity building activities till the date completed 255 Training Programmes. During 2024, an international collaborative training programme was conducted: CIRDAP- Institute of Kemajuan Desa (INFRA) Training on Rural Tourism towards Integrated Rural Development, 09 – 17 October 2024 (9 Days) held at Penang, Malaysia. Indian Government funded the Tri-Country Training Design Workshop on Cooperatives Management in Asia and the Pacific Region and the Study Visit to Successful Cooperatives in Thailand was held from 10th to 15th November 2024.

Four international training were planned for 2025 : Training Programme on ‘Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation’ 12-19 January 2025 in Islamabad, Pakistan; Joint International Training Programme with Ni-msme, India on “Micro Enterprises for Rejuvenation of Rural Economy: Policies, Programmes & Learnings” 23 February to 2 March, 2025, at National Institute of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, India; CIRDAP and NIRDPR Collaborative International Training Programme on ‘Innovation in Rural Development: Policies to Practices – Learning’, 15th–22nd June 2025 at the NIRDPR Campus, Hyderabad, India; and CIRDAP-NEDAC International Training Programme on ‘Startups, Technology, Entrepreneurship & Partnerships for Vibrant Agri-Cooperatives’ on 21-23 July, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand. It is important to note that out of these programmes, two programmes are based on the fully self-financed.

Under Information and Communication division, CIRDAP is regularly organizing Webinars by the eminent professionals on current relevant issues in Rural Development for the benefit of CIRDAP member countries. During 2024, ten (10) webinar on different thematic topics such as Disaster Risk Reduction, Food Loss and Waste, Agricultural Intensification for Family Farming, Small Enterprises, Organized and Unorganized Marketing Channels of Milk Marketing, Artificial Intelligence in farmer's livelihood, Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, Nutrition and Finance and Secondary Agriculture etc. The webinar series in 2025 and beyond has been set and CIRDAP plans to organize at least one webinar in each month. CIRDAP created an official YouTube channel for show casing various activities especially webinars under CIRDAP Knowledge Series. Currently, 40 videos on webinars are uploaded in the channel. During this period, CIRDAP published three international publications titled *'The Rural Development Report (RDR) 2023; and planned for five International publications on 'Rural Tourism in Asia and the Pacific: Concept, Practices and Opportunities', 'Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Models of Asia and Pacific Region', Disaster Management and Climate Change adaptation, Rural Innovations, Agri Value Chain, Inspiring women stories in CMCs and Agri-Startup and Rural Entrepreneurship*. CIRDAP regularly published its monthly E-Bulletin 'Voice of CIRDAP', September – December 2024, total 4 issues were published highlighting various facets of IRD in the Asia-Pacific region and activities of CIRDAP with stakeholders. Another flagship publication of CIRDAP Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) is a biannual professional journal in association with SAGE publication. In this period Volume 34, Issue 2, December 2024 published.

In order to avail the global expertise for assisting CIRDAP in addressing challenges in Rural Development in CIRDAP member countries, CIRDAP has created a platform to network Experts in Rural Development as CIRDAP Experts. On December 18, the CIRDAP Experts' Meeting was held virtually at 11 a.m. (Bangladesh time), with the participation of 26 experts from various disciplines across the CIRDAP Member Countries. CIRDAP Experts have been asked to utilize CIRDAP Project Facilitation facility to submit projects through CIRDAP to donor agencies. Six proposals received by experts are under screening. CIRDAP has partnership with 62 organizations through LOA and MoUs since from the establishment for joining in hand to uplift the integrated rural development mandate of CIRDAP.

CIRDAP undertakes sponsored projects by the CIRDAP member countries and other donors based on their specific requirements in Rural Development. CIRDAP has initiated CIRDAP project Facilitation Centre which provides consultancy proposals from the experts, organizations and examine for relevancy at CIRDAP level. The fundraising was also made through a few research projects in collaboration with development partners, as well as the implementation of relevant activities that can offer the possibility for fundraising. Fundraising activities also have been carried out through the activities at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), and submission of collaborative proposals in collaboration with CMCs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
	Executive Summary	3
1	Introduction	7
2	Research Programmes	11
3	Training programmes & In house Capacity Building	18
4	Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Models	22
5	World Rural Development Day (WRDD), 2025	26
6	Webinars	29
7	Consultancies	34
8	Publications	37
9	Conferences Attended	40
10	Meetings/Visitors	43
11	Link Institutes	46
12	CIRDAP Experts	49
13	Partnerships	52
14	Social Media	55
15	CIRDAP International Conference Center (CICC)	58
16	Policy Body Meetings/Communications	60
17	Administration	66
18	Finance	70

Chapter 1: Introduction

Established on 6th July 1979, the **Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)** is an **intergovernmental and regional** organization created to promote Integrated Rural Development (IRD) across the Asia-Pacific region. CIRDAP emerged in response to the failure of earlier development approaches during the 1970s, a time when rural development began to gain prominence in national development agendas and Strategies. Therefore, the idea of promoting IRD through regional cooperation by establishing an intergovernmental organization in the Asia Pacific Region emerged.

With support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, CIRDAP was formed to foster regional cooperation in rural development through a structured and integrated framework. There are 15 member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran , Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

CIRDAP's core objective is to promote integrated rural development by enhancing regional cooperation among member states, link institutes, and development partners. It aims to improve the lives of rural people through:

- Development assistance projects
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening
- Policy formulation and research support
- Knowledge dissemination and technical exchange

CIRDAP works closely in partnership with the National Link Institutes and Centres of its member governments, development agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, farmer associations, research bodies and other organizations with mutually shared principles. CIRDAP supports technical exchange and capacity building, institutional strengthening and the development of policies for Integrated Rural Development.



CIRDAP Secretariat office is located at Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

VISION

To be a Centre of Excellence & multi-level platform for cooperation in knowledge transfer and capacity building for developing countries in integrated rural affairs for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific Region.

MISSION

CIRDAP mission is to provide technical support and promote innovative best practices on sustainable IRD amongst member countries in Asia-Pacific to improve the lives of rural people.

To utilise state-of-the-art information and communication technology.

- To provide flagship training and capacity development in integrated rural development and related agricultural activities to serve the needs of rural communities in the region and sub-regions.
- To enhance the analytical capability of developing countries in formulating rural development policies and determining appropriate measures corresponding with impacts of globalization, trade liberalization, climate change, and disaster risks in the region and sub-regions, engaging communities by using community-based and adaptive management approaches.
- To foster cooperation on development between countries in the region and sub-regions through collaborative research projects.
- To collaborate with interagency departments, academic institutions, the private sector, research funds, and other national and international organizations to disseminate knowledge gained and transfer innovative technologies to developing countries in the region and sub-regions.

With the vision of Centre of Excellence & multi-level platform for cooperation in knowledge transfer and capacity building and the mission, CIRDAP has been reaching out to transform thousands of rural and marginalized people in the region.

Organizational Structure (Policy Bodies)

The Centre is administered by the Secretariat based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. CIRDAP has three governing bodies, namely Governing Council (GC), the Executive Committee (EC) and the Technical Committee (TC). The Governing Council (GC) is the highest policy and decision-making body of CIRDAP represented by the Ministers of the designated Contact Ministries of all member countries. It sets the overall policy and programme direction for the Centre. The primary role of the Executive Committee (EC) is to review and make recommendations to GC on matters concerning the management and operation of the Centre's activities. It is also responsible to provide guidance to the Centre on implementation of the policies and decisions. The Technical Committee (TC) is to provide technical advice on professional matters concerning work plans and strategies for implementation of the CIRDAP activities, and the interrelationships and coordination of activities carried out by the Centre under auspices of the member countries.

CIRDAP Secretariat

CIIRDAP Secretariat led by the Director General (DG) who is the Chief authority of the organizations run day to day activities in the head quarter, Dhaka, Bangladesh. It provides technical and policy support to Ministries and Institutions with IRD by enabling national decision-makers, development practitioners and planners to exchange ideas and experiences on IRD and to identify areas in which collaborative efforts can be promoted for the mutual benefit of member states. CIRDAP is mandated to facilitate services that will influence policy formulation and programme development towards rural development and poverty alleviation through a network of CIRDAP Contact ministries and Link Institutions. CIRDAP's 'Core Activities' related to IRD include research, pilot project, training and education, exposure visit, consultative conference/policy dialogue, dissemination of Information, etc.

Leadership in Changes of CIRDAP



Dr. P. Chandra Shekara assumed charge as New Director General of CIRDAP on September 6, 2025, an Indian national replacing Dr. Cherdsak Virapat Thai national who has completed his four-year term (2020 -2024). Dr. P. Chandra Shekara will serve CIRDAP from 2024 to 2028.

Dr. Chandra is a leading Professional in the field of Agriculture with his more than three decades of service towards

integrated rural development especially in the areas namely Agricultural Extension Management, Agri-Entrepreneurship Development, Agricultural Marketing Management and Public-Private-Partnership. He headed three premier National Institutions in India which work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. Dr. Chandra served as Director General of CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Director General (In-charge) of National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) and Director General of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE). As Chief Executive of these Institutions, He leads very important International and National schemes, programs and policy interventions for development of Agriculture through Training, Research, Consultancy, Policy Advocacy, Education, International Programmes, Implementation of Govt. of India Schemes, Agripreneurship Development, Agri. Startups Promotion, Documentation and Dissemination in Agriculture Development.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara received numerous accolades and recognition for his outstanding achievements worth mentioning – “Extension Leadership Award (2023) in the International Extension Education Conference 2023 (IEEC 2023); “NITTE-Karnataka Bank Limited Lifetime Achievement Award-2019 for driving Agri-entrepreneurship Movement in India” and etc.

Dr. Chandra holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension awarded from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore in 1999 with the following Three Gold Medals:

- Recipient of University of Agricultural Sciences Gold Medal for Securing Highest Grade Point.
- Recipient of Dr. K.A. Jalihal Gold Medal for Best Ph.D., Student in Agricultural Extension.
- Recipient of Dr. R. Dwarakinath, Former Vice-Chancellor Gold Medal for Best PhD. Student in Agricultural Extension.

A Global Recognition



In a significant milestone, the year 2024 marked a historic moment for CIRDAP. The United Nations General Assembly officially recognized 6th July, the foundation day of CIRDAP, as World Rural Development Day to be celebrated annually. This international recognition underscores the vital contributions of CIRDAP to sustainable rural development in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Chapter 2: Research Programmes



Chapter 2: Research Programmes

The Research and Pilot Project Division initiatives of 2024 were conducted according to the Strategic Plan and knowledge generation, focusing on specific areas selected by CIRDAP. The Research activities focused on improving rural marginalized people's standard of living. The main purposes of Research and development:

- To carry out interdisciplinary and trans disciplinary research on integrated rural development and related issues in collaboration with CIRDAP Link Institutes (CLIs), development partners and projects to obtain policy advice and recommendations for improving livelihoods, economic and environment aspects and for achieving SDGs and related frameworks.
- The research outcome provides policy advice and recommendations for policy makers in making better informed choices.

During 1979 to 2024, 212 Research & Action Research Projects were carried out by CIRDAP.

2.1 Research Projects under the Women, Youth, and Rural Development (WYRD) Programme

CIRDAP created the Women, Youth, and Rural Development Programme as a key component of its Gender in Integrated Rural Development work. During the 37th session of the Technical Committee on 9 September 2022, the draft brochure and procedure for the programme were approved. This brochure offers comprehensive details about CIRDAP, its key activities, relevant work programmes, and procedures for advancing gender equality, as well as the empowerment of women and youth from 2022 onwards. In the 38th session held in Lao PDR on 3-4 October 2023, the Technical Committee recommended and Governing Council approved the programme as part of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for the 23rd Biennium (2024–2025). The Governing Council (GC-24) subsequently approved four project proposals for CIRDAP funding for the 23rd Biennium.

Following are the details of CIRDAP's four Research Projects initiated during the period.

- **Nepal** - Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to implement Gender Responsive Budget at selected Local Governments in Nepal implemented by CIRDAP & Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal.
- **India** - Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood implemented by CIRDAP & National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India.

- **IR Iran** - Improving Rural Women Sustainable Livelihood through Empowerment in Sericulture Value Chain implemented by CIRDAP & Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute, (APERDRI) IR Iran.
- **Sri Lanka** - Women and Youth Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Bottom-Up Approach implemented by CIRDAP & Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Sri Lanka.

2.1.1 Details and Progress of the Research activities of WYRD are as follows

- I. **Title: Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to implement Gender Responsive Budget at selected Local Governments in Nepal implemented by CIRDAP & Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal.**

Objective:

1. The participants will be able to explain better on the importance and need of gender responsive budget.
2. The participants will be able to classify and code GRB in the projects at provincial and local levels.
3. The participants will be able to understand the GESI Audit process at local levels.

Progress:



The Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Government of Nepal organized the first Training Programme of CIRDAP's Project on " Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to Implement Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) at Selected Local Governments in Nepal" at Modi Rural Municipality during 19 to 20 December 2024. There were altogether 47 participants including Chairperson, Vice chairperson and other elected representatives. The project aims at sensitizing elected representatives on Gender Responsive Budgeting.

- II. **Title: Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood implemented by CIRDAP & National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India**

Objective:

1. Establish the action lab in order to develop a long-term strategy and a sustainable model for identifying and bridging the livelihood gaps for socioeconomically underprivileged transgender and gender-diverse youths with a focus on people from the rural spaces.
2. Encourage creating livelihood entrepreneur role models within the transgender communities in various mainstream domains of work and bring them into India's vibrant start-up ecosystem
3. Promote creating employment through enterprise and self-help group developments led by transgender and gender-diverse youths from rural spaces.
4. Reduce multidimensional poverty within the target group.
5. Develop best practice and other training modules for improving the quality of life of socially ostracized and poverty-ridden transgender youths through resilient livelihoods.
6. Engage with various stakeholders, such as government agencies, community initiatives & collectives, transgender leaders, corporate bodies, policy institutions & think-tanks, philanthropic initiatives, etc., to showcase & promote the model for inclusive sustainable development and create awareness around the rights, lives, and livelihoods of transgender and gender-diverse communities.
7. Integrate the learning of the action lab into various national and international training modules for dissemination of knowledge and promoting inclusive growth internationally and potentially towards establishing a CoE.

Progress:

NIRD & PR, India has received the fund & soon start the Project activities.

III. *Title: Improving Rural Women Sustainable Livelihood through Empowerment in Sericulture Value Chain implemented by CIRDAP & Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute, (APERDRI) IR Iran.*

Objective:

1. Establishing "Rural Women Sericulture Development Facilitator Networks" in three provinces
2. Increasing the participation of rural women in sericulture value chain
3. Creation of rural women silk producer's organizations and self-help groups
4. Formation of virtual networks of silk producer rural women
5. Providing technical assistance and training by other institutions such as APO and advanced countries such as Japan and China
6. Community-based tourism development on the basis of sericulture value chain
7. Standardization, identification and development of collective brands and trademarks

8. Development of innovative, appropriate, low-cost and indigenous tools and machines in order to increase productivity with the participation of knowledge-based companies active in the region
9. Diversification of silk by-products.

Progress:

CIRDAP is waiting for IR Iran communication for accepting funds. APERDRI will start the activities on receipt of funds.

IV. *Title: Women and Youth Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Bottom-Up Approach implemented by CIRDAP & Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Sri Lanka.*

Major objective:

The major objective of the project is to sustainably empower women and youth by providing them with sustainable livelihood options in the Kandapola Central village of Sri Lanka.

Specific objectives:

1. To identify existing women and youth issues related to livelihood enhancement in Kandapola Central village.
2. To identify potential solutions for livelihood enhancement in Kandapola Central village.
3. To develop and implement of community-driven women and youth empowerment plan for Kandapola Central village.
4. To evaluate the level of women and youth empowerment.

Progress:

HARTI, Sri Lanka is going to start the field work on the second week of January. For the implementation of the project, HARTI is already provided funds.

2.2 Other Research Activities

V. *Title: Revisions to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA Monitoring and Report for Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa*

CIRDAP with collaboration of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), implemented a dual-component research project focused on enhancing aquaculture governance and strategic planning. The project addressed two core areas/components:

1. Revisions to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA Monitoring; and
2. Preparation of a Regional Report on Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa.

2.2.1 Component 1: Revising the CCRF Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA Monitoring

This component aimed to revise and align the CCRF Aquaculture Questionnaire with the FAO's Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA). A team of senior technical experts, including Mr. Pongpat Boonchuwong (Thailand), Mr. Supawat Komolmarl (Thailand), and Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin (CIRDAP), conducted a detailed gap analysis and explored integration opportunities for enhanced GSA monitoring.

2.2.2 A Global Expert Consultation Workshop

The workshop was held from 8–10 May 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, co-organized by FAO and CIRDAP. The workshop convened 15 international experts from 14 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Nigeria, Oman, the Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Türkiye, Tunisia, the USA, and Vietnam. Valuable contributions to the coordination and implementation of the workshop were made by Dr. Matthias Halwart, Team Leader, Sustainable Aquaculture – Global, FAO; Dr. Cherdasak Virapat, former Director General of CIRDAP. The presenters and facilitators of the workshop included Dr. Pierre Murekezi (FAO) and Mr. Arthur James Fenton (CCRF expert), who provided indispensable support to the organization and delivery of the event. Mr. Prapan Leepayakhun Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand officially welcomed all participants on behalf of the Ministry.

Workshop Objectives:

- Analyze and recommend revisions to the existing CCRF-Aquaculture Questionnaire.
- Ensure alignment with GSA guidelines and COFI-AQ recommendations.
- Improve FAO Member participation in the reporting process.



Key Outputs:

- Final draft of the revised CCRF-Aquaculture Questionnaire with six thematic sections.
- Identification of key gaps and monitoring opportunities related to GSA.
- Workshop report including technical recommendations and updated questionnaire draft.

**2.2.3 Component 2: A Regional Report for Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa**

This component focused on conducting a comparative policy analysis of national, regional, and continental aquaculture frameworks in Northern Africa, vis-à-vis FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap. CIRDAP engaged Dr. Curtis M. Jolly, Professor Emeritus at Auburn University (USA), who developed a comprehensive report analysing policy coherence, led the study and development challenges in the region.

Objective:

To support evidence-based aquaculture development strategies in Northern Africa by aligning national policies with FAO's sustainability agenda. This research project significantly contributed to global and regional aquaculture governance by:

- 1) Enhancing the usability and strategic value of the CCRF-Aquaculture Questionnaire for FAO Members.
- 2) Informing policy reform and development strategies in Northern Africa in line with FAO's Blue Transformation.

The collaboration reaffirmed CIRDAP's role as a regional partner in shaping sustainable aquaculture systems and advancing responsible fisheries management.

Chapter 3: Training Programmes



Chapter 3: Training Programmes

The Training & Education programme of CIRDAP has played a key role since its inception in 1979 by organizing different training and programs in CIRDAP member countries (CMCs). The division organizes training programs for capacity building, human resource development, and promoting integrated rural development in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). Till now, more than seven thousand people have received training through workshops, seminars, knowledge-sharing mechanisms, etc.

CIRDAP under its capacity building activities till the date completed 255 Training Programmes and more than 7,500 executives were trained

3.1 CIRDAP covered these diverse and wide thematic issues and topics under the training and education

- Poverty Reduction and Integrated Approach of Poverty Reduction/ Multidimensional Poverty
- International Training Programme on Participatory Rural Development,
- Integrated Rural Development Framework,
- Multi-lateral treaties on Environmental Legal Issues.
- Sustainable Food System & Agriculture Investment
- Rural Natural Resources
- E-commerce and Role of Cooperatives
- Accounting for Community Enterprises
- Blue Economy and Green Economy
- Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Trade and Sustainable Development
- Global Integrated Rural Development and Policy Formulations
- Sustainable Finance for Promoting Green Economy
- Bio Trade, Biodiversity & Genetic Resources, Transfer of Technology, and sustainable trade
- Organizational Behaviour Change Communication
- Management of Rural Employment Projects and Poverty Alleviation
- Natural Resources Management for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Financial Inclusion, Project Management, and Evaluation

- Food and Nutrition security
- Social Audit and Good Governance
- Village Governance

3.2 CIRDAP - Institute of Kemajuan Desa (INFRA) Training on Rural Tourism towards Integrated Rural Development



CIRDAP- Institute of Kemajuan Desa (INFRA), international training on ‘Rural Tourism towards Integrated Rural Development’, 09 – 17 October 2024 (9 Days) held at Penang, Malaysia. This programme was jointly funded by the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW) Malaysia through INFRA. Thirteen Executives from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the programme.

On 9 October, 2024, the DG of CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara inaugurated the training programme. Ms. Annie Liaw, Deputy Director (Training) of INFRA welcomes the participants INFRA at the ceremony. The course emphasized on sharing Malaysia’s experiences and promoting Rural Tourism as part of its efforts to enhance sustainable economic development and community empowerment in rural areas. It focused on sharing Malaysia’s successful experiences and best practices in rural development, community-based tourism, and sustainable economic activities.

Special attraction of the CIRDAP-INFRA International Training on Rural Tourism: The Homestay



As a part of field visit, the participants of the training programme visited several homestays in Malaysia. Homestay programme is a community-based programme where the hosts and the visitors interacts each other during the stay of the guests on day-to-day basis exchanging knowledge, culture and experience. It offers different types of activities, depending on the culture, food, economic activity as well as location.

3.3 Tri-Country Training Design Workshop on Cooperatives Management in Asia and the Pacific Region and the Study Visit to Successful Cooperatives in Thailand

CIRDAP had a ZOOM meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, on 21 August 2024 to discuss the Tri-Country Training Design Workshop with the Secretary Sri Shailesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on 7th March 2024. In this 1-week workshop, a Syllabus on a 2–3-week Training on Regional Cooperatives Management in Asia and the Pacific will be designed. Also during the workshop, a Study Tour of selected successful cooperatives in Thailand for senior Government officials from India, Bangladesh, and Thailand will be held.

3.4 In- House Capacity Building

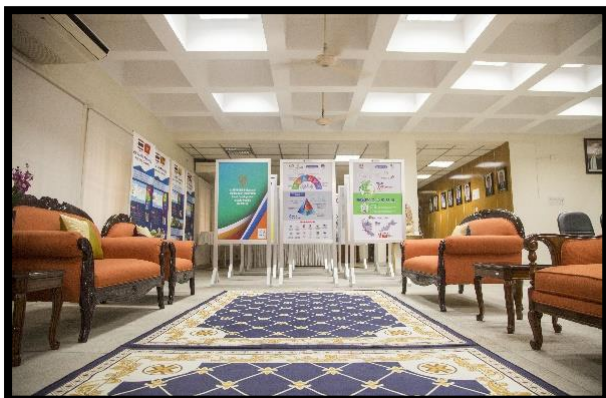
Mr. F.A.M. Zakirul Huq, OIC of Learning Knowledge and Management Division, attended the OKS Certificate Programme on Organizational Knowledge Sharing organized by the Bangkok University Institute for Knowledge and Innovation South East Asia on 27th – 31st May 2024.

Chapter 4: Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Models



Chapter 4: Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Models

CEMIRD: CIRDAP Exhibitions & Museum on Integrated Rural Development



One of the CIRDAP initiatives of CEMIRD aiming at presenting successful rural development models implemented by the CIRDAP member Countries. The old library premise was converted into CEMIRD by communicating with all CMCs to send their IRD best practice models.

Integrated Rural Development (IRD) has been a key strategy for rural development in Asia and the Pacific over the past four

decades. Various countries have pioneered rural development projects, pragmatically adapting them to local conditions. As a result, multiple concepts, philosophies, and models have been successfully implemented to improve livelihoods, reduce poverty, and enhance food security in rural areas.

4.1 Several IRD models from the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) have already been documented, exhibited, and are being disseminated through CEMIRD. One of the core mandates of CIRDAP is to identify successful IRD models and facilitate their dissemination among member countries.

11 IRD Models from the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMC) has standardized for dissemination and showcased at CIRDAP

- The Comilla Model of Rural Development - **Bangladesh**
- Improving Livelihood of Rural people of Lalmai-Mainamati Hill Areas of Cumilla through Integrated Agricultural Farming.(BARD Part of My House My Farm project) **Bangladesh**
- The Lomani Gau Initiative of Fiji Island- **Fiji**
- Building Sustainable Self-Reliant Communities in Rural India Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) – **India**
- Establishment of Participatory Water Management System Golestan Province – **IR Iran**
- Malaysia 21st Century Village Programme – **Malaysia**
- Evergreen Village Development Project –**Myanmar**

- Pakistan's Largest Social Protection Programme: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) – **Pakistan**
- Philippine's IRD Model. Raise the Arcs, the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development Programme (ARBDSP) - **Philippines**
- Community Development and Livelihood Improvement Project: A Community Driven Development Programme in Sri Lanka- **Sri Lanka**
- The King Who Worked for the Land According to the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy -**Thailand**

4.2 IRD Innovations collected by the CIRDAP Secretariat are disseminated through daily Social media. CIRDAP is preparing a comprehensive handbook that will compile these rural development models, including the ones listed below. The objective of the publication is to showcase best practices in integrated rural development and promote knowledge sharing and potential replication across countries.

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), India
- Hiware Bazar: A model village in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India
- Kudumbashree Model, Kerala, India
- Anand Milk Union Limited (Amul), India
- One Tambon One Product (OTOP), Thailand
- The Malaysia Homestay Programme, Malaysia
- Sahaj - Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme, Nepal
- Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Support Services Programme, Indonesia
- Samurdhi Programme, Sri Lanka.
- Rural women facilitators' development Programme, Iran
- Saemaul Undong (New Village Movement model, South Korea.
- Gross National Happiness (GNH) Model, Bhutan
- The Land Reform Program (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program - CARP), Philippines
- Rural Cooperative Model, China
- Living Land Model – LAO PDR
- Sahyadri Farms: India's Largest Integrated Fruits and Vegetables Value Chain (A company of the farmers, by the farmers and for the farmers), India
- Microcredit Model of Grameen Bank: Empowering the Marginalized, Bangladesh
- KIBUTZZ Model: A Successful Example of Collective Economy, Israel
- Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Sub Tai: CBIRD Model in Thailand
- Empowering Young Innovators in Rural Cambodia: A Path to Bridging Gaps with UNICEF's Generation Future Programme, Cambodia
- Solar Powered Health Clinics in Peru Strengthen Community Resilience, Peru, Latin America
- FAO's Transformative Approach to Sustainable Development in the Philippines - Empowering Rural Innovation



- Fostering Integrated Rural Innovation in Indonesia: Synergizing Environmental Sustainability, Economic Development, and Human Capital for Resilient Communities
- Integrated Rural Innovation in Digital Villages: Case Study of Vietnam's Digital Transformation
- The Siyakhula Living Lab & Reed House Systems Initiative: Using ICT to Strengthen Marginalized Communities and Bridging the Digital Divide, South Africa

Chapter 5: World Rural Development Day (WRDD)



Chapter 5: World Rural Development Day (WRDD)

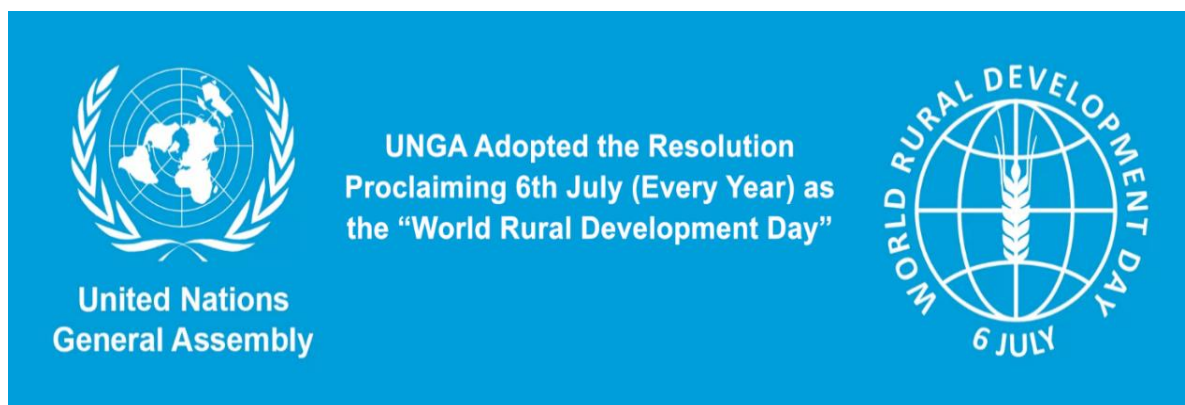
5.1 Breakfast meeting with the Ambassadors of the Embassies in Bangladesh to sensitize on the World Rural Development Day



On 22nd February 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and CIRDAP jointly organized a breakfast meeting on the 'Declaration of the World Rural Development Day' at the CIRDAP secretariat. Former Ambassador Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, presided over the meeting. The Heads of Missions of the High Commissions/Embassies of the Member States of CIRDAP in Dhaka gracefully attended the meeting to discuss the draft resolution titled "Declaration of the World Rural Development Day" to be tabled at the UN General Assembly.

Dr. Cherdsak Virapat, the former Director General (DG) of CIRDAP, welcomed the distinguished ambassadors, high commissioners, and their representatives and expressed his gratitude toward them. He briefly discussed the importance of a day like World Rural Development Day. In his opening remark, former Ambassador Mr. Masud Bin Momen expressed that the proposed UN General Assembly Resolution on the declaration of 'World Rural Development Day' can be part of a coordinated strategy to demonstrate the shared commitment to leaving no one behind in our rural areas. He also said that this could be a collective appreciation to CIRDAP by internationally earmarking the date it was established, i.e., 06 July, as the 'World Rural Development Day.'

The meeting ended with a fruitful and interactive open discussion by the honorable attendees and with the closing remark of Ambassador Mr. Masud Bin Momen. He thanked the ambassadors and high commissioners for their contributions and support.



5.2 UNGA Declares 6 July as the World Rural Development Day in Recognition of CIRDAP's Contribution

- On 6 September 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared 6 July as the World Rural Development Day (every year), in recognition of the significant contributions made by CIRDAP in advancing rural development across the region. Notably, this date also marks CIRDAP's Foundation Day, underscoring the organization's enduring commitment to inclusive rural progress.
- The World Rural Development Day (WRDD) website, initially launched on 6 July 2023, has been activated and updated with highlights from the 2024 celebrations. This year, seven events were organized to commemorate the occasion, each reflecting the growing global momentum toward rural transformation and empowerment. These events are now featured on the WRDD website to document and share best practices and innovations in rural development.
- Looking ahead to 2025, CIRDAP is planning to launch a dedicated signature campaign in 2025 to build widespread support and recognition for rural communities in observance of World Rural Development Day.
- All the CIRDAP employee ingrained the tagline '*Let's celebrate the World Rural Development Day on 6th of July every year which is foundation day of CIRDAP*' in email.

Chapter 6: Webinars



Chapter 6: Webinars

6.1 Since 2021, CIRDAP is regularly organizing Webinars by eminent professionals on current relevant issues in Rural Development for the benefit of CIRDAP member countries.

The thematic topics that are covered in the Webinar

‘Empirical and Qualitative Study of Nutrition Security in India’; ‘The Role of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIHAS) in the Integrated Sustainable Agricultural, Rural and Food Tourism Development’; ‘Rural Development in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - SGD and Malaysia Rural Development Policy’; ‘The advantages of Agricultural Intensification for Family Farming’; ‘Small Enterprises to strengthen Rural Economy: Challenges and Opportunities; and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics: Five Decades of Excellence in alleviating poverty in South Asia’.

CIRDAP also organized webinars for the celebrations of the International Days - International Women’s Day, World Oceans Day, International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction etc.

6.2 Webinar conducted in 2024

Under the webinar series of 2024, CIRDAP has organized 10 webinars on different thematic issues and areas.



Title: Celebrating International Women’s Day, titled ‘Enhancing Women’s Political Participation in India through MAHILA SABHAs (Women’s Forums)’

Speaker: Dr. N.V. Madhuri, Head, Centre for Gender Studies and Development (CGSD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.

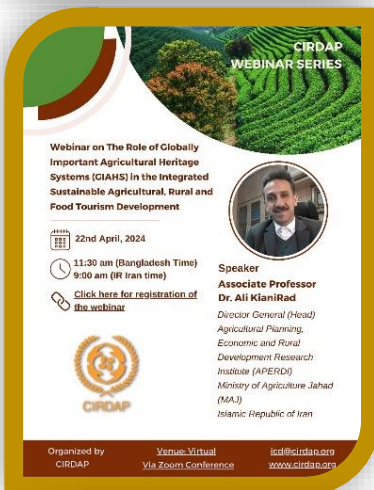
Date: March 7, 2024



Title: *Empirical and Qualitative Study of Nutrition Security in India*

Speaker: Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, Head in-Charge, NIRD-PR Delhi Branch, New Delhi, India

Date: April 4, 2024



Title: *The Role of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in the Integrated Sustainable Agricultural, Rural and Food Tourism Development'*

Speaker: Associate Professor Dr. Ali KianiRad Director General (Head), Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), I.R. Iran

Date: April 22, 2024



Title: *Rural Development in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - SGD and Malaysia Rural Development Policy*

Speaker: Ms. Nazlinda binti Zamani, Principal Assistant Secretary, Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia.

Date: May 9, 2024



Title: Celebrating the World Ocean Day '*One Ocean, Three Approaches, Five Issues, Seven Solutions*'

Speaker: Mr Sunil Murlidhar SHASTRI FRGS FRSA, Consultant, Educator and Speaker in Ocean and Environmental Governance

Date: June 10, 2024



Title: '*The advantages of Agricultural Intensification for Family Farming*'

Speaker: Associate Professor Dr. M. Ebrahimpour, IR IRAN

Date: September 17, 2024



Title: *International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste*

Speaker: Assoc. Dr. Nuanchan Singkran, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

Date: September 29, 2024



Title: Celebrating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction titled '*Natural disaster reduction and a proposed management framework*'

Speaker: Assoc. Dr. Nuanchan Singkran, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

Date: October 13, 2024



Title: *Small Enterprises to strengthen Rural Economy: Challenges and Opportunities*

Speaker: Dr. S. Glory Swarupa, Director General, National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), an organization of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

Date: November 19, 2024



Title: *International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics: Five Decades of Excellence in alleviating poverty in South Asia*

Speaker: Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Principal Scientist and Strategic Advisor, Office of the Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Telangana, India

Date: December 5, 2024

All the webinar recordings have been added to the CIRDAP official YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@CIRDAPOfficialChannel>.

Chapter 7: Consultancies



Chapter 7: Consultancies

7.1 Tri-Country Training Design Workshop on Cooperatives Management in Asia and the Pacific Region and the Study Visit to Successful Cooperatives in Thailand at Thailand

Indian Government funded The Tri-Country Training Design Workshop on Cooperatives Management in Asia and the Pacific Region and the Study Visit to Successful Cooperatives in Thailand was held from 10th to 15th November 2024. The event brought together key stakeholders from India, Bangladesh, and Thailand, with the objective of enhancing the knowledge and management skills of agricultural cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region. 18 subject matter



Experts/stakeholders from three countries participated in the workshop. The workshop, organized by CIRDAP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific), involved both theoretical sessions and practical site visits to successful cooperatives in Thailand. The objectives of the Workshop and Study Visit were:

- Enhance Knowledge on the management of agricultural cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Share Best Practices and success stories from cooperative models in Thailand.
- Design a Training Module for regional cooperative management based on the unique challenges and opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region.
- Foster Networking among experts and participants to encourage future collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Draft training module has been prepared and in the process of refining.



7.2 CIRDAP Digital Platform for linking Rural Development Libraries of all CMCs

As per the Objective of establishment, CIRDAP to act as a servicing institution for its Member States with respect to integrated rural development, by providing them with technical support, by fostering the exchange of ideas and experience and by encouraging such joint or collaborative activities as may benefit those States individually or collectively. In line of this, a project to develop a digital knowledge hub of Rural Development of CIRDAP member countries under CIRDAP knowledge circuit. The project proposes to digitize and link all the Libraries of Knowledge Partners of CIRDAP in all the member countries. The proposal which is in pipeline will be finalized after consultation with member countries.

7.3 CIRDAP Project Facilitation Centre

In 2024, CIRDAP has established the ***Project Facilitation Centre*** to support the submission of national and international Rural Development projects to the funding agencies. Leveraging its pool of Experts and MoU partners, CIRDAP can process and forward eligible projects for consideration. Upon approval, the project leader will have the opportunity to implement the initiative as Team Leader under the CIRDAP platform, with operational arrangements determined according to project requirements.

Through its ***Project Facilitation Centre***, CIRDAP offers customized consultancy services tailored to the specific needs of its member countries. These services are developed in close collaboration with MoU partners and Link Institutions, ensuring contextual relevance and alignment with national development priorities. Project implementation is carried out upon the successful acquisition of donor funding, ensuring both sustainability and effectiveness.

Chapter 8: Publications

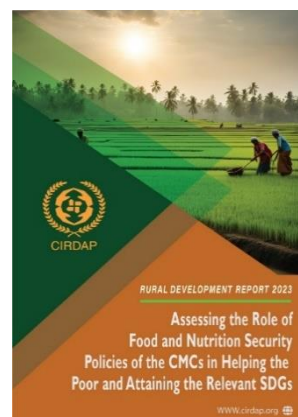


Chapter 8: Publications

Important publications of CIRDAP published during the period are as follows;

8.1 CIRDAP Flagship Rural Development Report 2023

In October 2024, CIRDAP published its flagship report on the Rural Development (2023) titled *‘Assessing the Role of Food and Nutrition Security Policies of the CMCs in Helping the Poor and Attaining the Relevant SDGs’*. The study aims to assess the adequacy of CMCs' food and nutrition security policies to help the rural poor living there and the likely impact of such intervention on the SDG targets in context. RDR 2023 has been circulated to 1.18 lac stakeholders in CIRDAP member countries.

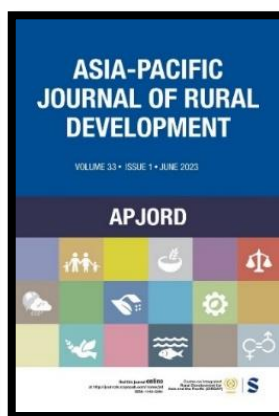
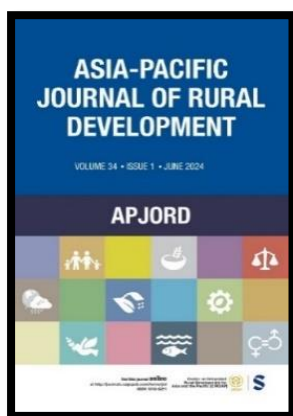
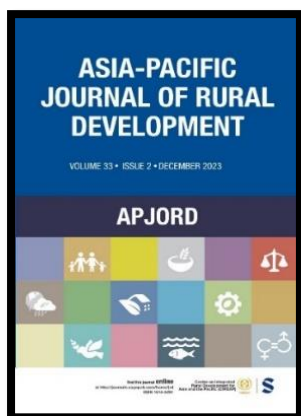


8.2 Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD)

APJORD, a bi-annual academic and professional journal, is a flagship publication of CIRDAP which is devoted to the issues and discussions on rural development, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region. The journal provides a platform for the academicians, policymakers, NGOs, research scholars and other stakeholders interested in Integrated Rural Development (IRD) to exchange and share ideas, opinions, field observations and empirical findings on various facets of rural development. During the period, following three issues have been published:

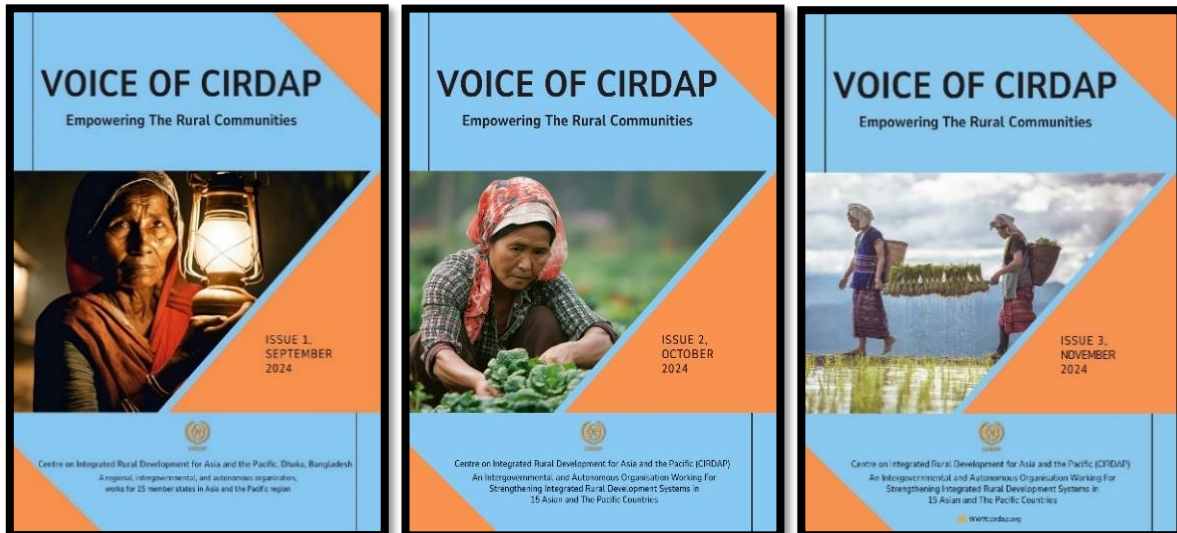
- APJORD – Volume 34, Issue 2, December 2024
- APJORD -Volume 34, Issue 1, June 2024.
- APJORD -Volume 33, Issue 2, December 2023

All the three journals have been circulated to 1.18 lac stakeholders in CIRDAP member countries.



8.3 Voice of CIRDAP

CIRDAP initiated monthly E- Bulletin titled **“Voice of CIRDAP”** carrying the messages on Rural Development and activities of CIRDAP to 1.28 lakh readers across the globe. During 2024, the following three issues published:



8.4 CIRDAP planned to publish few International Publications in 2025 on:

- Rural tourism on Asia and Pacific: Concept, Practice and Opportunities
- Disaster Management and Climate change adaptation in Asia and Pacific: Policies, Programmes, Approaches and Learnings
- Innovations in Rural Development in Asia and Pacific
- Integrated Rural Development models: Lessons for Asia and Pacific
- Agree Value Chain Management in Asia and Pacific
- Work on the Bi-annual flagship Rural Development Report (RDR) 2025 has been initiated

Chapter 9: Conference Attended



Chapter 9: Conference Attended

9.1 The First International Conference and the 8th Celebration of the International Rural Women's Day, IR Iran



The Director General CIRDAP attended The First International Conference and the 8th Celebration of the International Rural Women's Day and side events, took place from 14 to 16 October 2024 in Tehran, I. R. Iran. During the conference, DG also met Honorable Minister of Agriculture, IR Iran H.E. Dr. Gholamreza Nouri and Director General of Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APEDRI), Dr. Ali Kian Rad and discussed the topics of mutual interest.

9.2 Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI), Nepal



The Director General of CIRDAP attended an International Conference during 8-14 December 2024 on “Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Chitwan, Nepal organized by the Agriculture and Forestry University in Nepal and Tuskegee University in USA in collaboration with and Michigan State University and USAID. Delivered talk on tools of trade in gender equity and social inclusion during the conference.

9.3 World Agriculture Forum (WAF) Norman Borlogue Colloquy

DG, CIRDAP delivered a talk in World Agriculture Forum (WAF) Norman Borlogue Colloquy on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security at Mumbai, India on 20th September, 2024 and signed MoU between CIRDAP and WAF for mutual Co-operation.



9.4 International Conference on “Growth and Optimism in MSME Business: A Global Context

National Institute for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), has organized an International Conference on “Growth and Optimism in MSME Business: A Global Context” on 19 & 20 December 2024 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India sponsored by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India under International Cooperation Scheme. Under the signed MoU with ni-msme, they invited CIRDAP to attend and to deliver a key note address, Mr. FAM Zakirul Huq, OIC LKMD has attended the programme and delivered the talk. The programme was funded by Government of India.

Chapter 10: Meeting/Visitors



Chapter 10: Meeting/Visitors

- The Director General of CIRDAP, H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, had the honour of meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, H.E. Md Jashim Uddin on December 18, 2024
- DG, CIRDAP attended VICTORY DAY, 2024 of Bangladesh at Dhaka. The day mark the liberation of Bangladesh from foreign forces on December 16, 2024
- DG, CIRDAP had Courtesy Meeting with Honourable Minister of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration MoFAGA, Nepal Sri. Raj kumar Gupta at Singh Durbar, Kathmandu. On December 12, 2024
- DG, CIRDAP attended Maitri Diwas organized by Indian High Commission, Dhaka to strengthen friendship between India and Bangladesh on 6th December, 2024.
- DG CIRDAP attended a special reception on December 5, 2024, hosted by H.E. Mrs. Makawadee Sumitmor, Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, in celebration of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- DG of CIRDAP had a courtesy visit to the CARE Bangladesh, Dhaka and met with the Country Director Mr. Ram Das on November 28, 2024.
- A MoU Signed between CIRDAP and (IFPRI) and its Harvest Plus Program CIRDAP entered in a partnership with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and its Harvest Plus programme; and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 25, 2024.
- DG of CIRDAP HE Dr. P. Chandra Shekara met with Ambassador of IR Iran to Bangladesh, H.E Mansour Chavoshi in the Embassy of Iran to Bangladesh, Dhaka on November 25, 2024.
- A meeting held between Director General, CIRDAP and the country coordinator of Harvest Plus Bangladesh Mr. Wahidul Amin took place on 25th November 2024.
- CIRDAP visited Simftex Apparel Factory in Bhobanipur, Gazipur on November 23, 2024. The Head of Administration, Mr. Zulfikar, welcomed DG CIRDAP and gave an overview on the factory's operations and safety procedures followed by a tour of the various production areas. The visit aims to understand the functioning of the garment sector, which employs 4 million people in Bangladesh.
- A Reception by Chief Advisor, Government of Bangladesh on the celebration of "Armed Forces Day" was attended by DG, CIRDAP on November 21, 2024.
- A visit to School "Holiness Academy International" was made by DG, CIRDAP to understand the education status of rural, especially tribal children November 20, 2024.
- The Students from the University of Dhaka, Department of Geography and Environment visited CIRDAP to learn about its research and other activities November 17, 2024. Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer gave a presentation on CIRDAP followed by a question and answer session. They also explored rural development models (IRD) of

CIRDAP member countries and visited the E-Library. DG, CIRDAP had interacted with students.

- A courtesy meeting with Advisor H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh was paid by DG, CIRDAP November 7, 2024 and discussed about CIRDAP activities.
- A courtesy meeting by Mr. Jayanta Chakraborty, President of Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Dhaka, Bangladesh November 7, 2024 to CIRDAP and discussion with DG, CIRDAP to understand areas of mutual interest.
- DG, CIRDAP visited to BIEMSTEC Secretariat, Bangladesh and attended its foundation day. October 30, 2024.
- An online meeting between CIRDAP and T-Hub, Hyderabad, India took place to explore collaborative activities on October 22, 2024.
- An online meeting with SAGE Journal and Publications, New Delhi, India and CIRDAP took place for strengthening the working relations on October 22, 2024.
- Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP addressed National gathering of Iran Agriculture Extension Professionals at Extension headquarter of Agriculture Ministry at Tehran on 16th October, 2024.
- The Director General of CIRDAP met with the Honorable Agriculture Minister of IR IRAN H.E. Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji at Tehran, Iran on 14th October, 2024 and discussed about strengthening working relationship between CIRDAP and IR Iran.
- The DG of CIRDAP H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara met with the Dr. Ali Kiani Rad, Director General of Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDI), Tehran, IR Iran October 13, 2024.
- The DG of CIRDAP met with H.E. Dharmapala Weerakkody, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh October 1, 2024.
- DG, CIRDAP meet with H.E. Pranay Verma, High Commissioner, Embassy of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh. September 30, 2024.
- The DG of CIRDAP met with H.E. Heru Hartanto Subolo, Ambassador, Embassy of the republic of Indonesia, Dhaka, Bangladesh. September 30, 2024.
- DG CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara met with H.E. Syed Ahmed Maroof, High Commissioner of Pakistan, Bangladesh September 25, 2024 - in a courtesy meeting at the premise of the Embassy.
- DG CIRDAP met with Ambassador H.E. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Embassy of Nepal, Bangladesh in a courtesy meeting September 25, 2024 at the premises of the Embassy.
- A courtesy meeting held between Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, DG CIRDAP and Dr. Jiaoqun Shi, Food and Agriculture (FAO) Representative in Bangladesh on September 24, 2024. In the meeting, the two heads are discussed about strengthening cooperation for Agriculture Development.

Chapter 11: Link Institutes



Chapter 11: Link Institutes

CIRDAP works at global, regional, national and community level through its development partners, contact ministries and link institutions. With support from contact ministry, CIRDAP directly work with CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) to organize In-country and international programmes. Currently, four of the link institutes of the CIRDAO member countries India, IR Iran, Nepal and SriLanka directly involved in implementing the projects under the women, youth and gender programme of CIRDAP. In addition to research, CIRDAP's link institutes are actively involved in the training programmes, workshops, exposure visits, and other activities of CIRDAP Member countries.

11.1 National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India



The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj. Recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence, it builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of

PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders through inter-related activities of training, research and consultancy. The Institute is located in the historic city of Hyderabad in Telangana state. *Currently, CIRDAP in association with NIRDPR is implementing a project titled 'Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood'.*

11.2 Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI)

The Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI) of IR Iran, a link institute of CIRDAP, is dedicated to advancing agricultural research and rural development. The institute focuses on enhancing research quality, developing strategic policies, and providing applied solutions for the agricultural sector. It aims to identify research priorities, conduct economic studies, and implement strategies for sustainable agricultural growth. Through a merger of key institutions, the institute fosters scientific inquiry and provides expertise for national agricultural planning. *CIRDAP and APERDRI is currently collaborating on the 'Rural Women Empowerment in Sericulture Value Chain' project, which is part of CIRDAP's Women, Youth, and Rural Development Program.*



11.3 Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal



The Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) in Nepal, a link institute of CIRDAP, is committed to fostering effective local governance and sustainable development in Nepal. With the support of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) and various donor

agencies, LDTA strengthens the capacity of local authorities through comprehensive training on local governance, project management, financial management, and community mobilization. By bridging the gap between central and local governments, LDTA plays a vital role in Nepal's decentralized development.

CIRDAP and LDTA is collaborating on the impactful projects, such as the "Capacity Development and Gender Responsive Budget," aimed at promoting gender equality and rural development.

11.4 Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Sri Lanka



Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) was established in order to generate a range of policy analysis that would cover those key determinants of human and resource development in the

agrarian sector. The institute was established in 1972 as a statutory board in collaboration with the UNDP/FAO, which functions under the Ministry of Agriculture. It has developed into the premier national Institute in the field of socio-economic research relating to the use of land and water in Sri Lanka and has also developed the requisite skills and infrastructure for providing relevant training to farmers, field workers and managers in both the state and non-state sectors. The name of the Institute was changed as Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute in February 1995.

HARTI and CIRDAP is currently implementing a project called 'Women and Youth Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Bottom-Up Approach'.

Chapter 12: CIRDAP Experts



Chapter 12: CIRDAP Experts

In order to avail the global expertise for assisting CIRDAP in addressing challenges in Rural Development in CIRDAP member countries, CIRDAP has created a platform to network Experts in Rural Development as CIRDAP Experts.

In 2024, total number of experts are 114 in the database



Some of the activities carried out with respect to CIRDAP Experts during 2024 are as follows:

12.1 On December 18, 2024, the CIRDAP Experts' Meeting was held virtually at 11 a.m. (Bangladesh time), with the participation of 26 experts from various disciplines across the CIRDAP Member Countries. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, the



Director General of CIRDAP, warmly welcomed all the esteemed experts and shared a brief overview of the organization's recent initiatives. He also emphasized the importance of greater involvement from the experts to further CIRDAP's mission. Following the DG's remarks, the experts contributed valuable insights on several key areas, including enhancing collaboration in projects, increasing CIRDAP's visibility, and expanding its membership to strengthen its activities. Additionally, the experts provided strategic recommendations for the celebration of World Rural Development Day (July 6) in 2025.

12.2 CIRDAP Experts What's App group has been created.

12.3 CIRDAP Expert have been specifically asked to contribute for international Publications of CIRDAP which are in pipeline, contributing to bulletin Voice of CIRDAP and sharing videos on their experiences.

12.4 CIRDAP Experts have been asked to utilize CIRDAP Project Facilitation facility to submit projects through CIRDAP to donor agencies. Two proposals received by experts are under screening.

Chapter 13: Partnerships



Chapter 13: Partnerships

Since the establishment, CIRDAP has partnership with 59 organizations through LoA and MoUs

13.1 During 2024, CIRDAP signed MoU with the following organizations:

- i. World Agriculture Forum (WAF), the Netherlands.
- ii. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and its Harvest Plus Program, USA.
- iii. National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ni-msme), India
- iv. RAY One Agri Consulting LLP, India
- v. Orissa Foundation (OF), India
- vi. NEPAL Farmers Advisory Council (NFAC) PVT. LTD., Nepal
- vii. Rural Economic and Educational Development Society (REEDS), India
- viii. Shobit Institute of Engineering and Technology, India
- ix. Krishi Jagran Group of Publications as the official media partner for the World Rural Development Day.

13.2 The Former DG of CIRDAP Dr. Cherdsak Virapat was invited to attend and present (online) as a Panelist at the Deep Dive Session 5.1: Asia's Rice Market, Food Security Challenges and Policy Response, organized by the Asian Development Bank on 12 April 2024.

13.3 The Former DG of CIRDAP attended a meeting at DOF-Thailand on establishing the ASEAN Expert Database & Think Tank Network and Data Bank for Marine Fisheries for Thailand, DOF, Thailand on 16 April 2024.

13.4 The Former DG of CIRDAP Dr. Cherdsak Virapat attended the 33rd Governing Council Meeting of NACA during 4th – 8th March 2024 in New Delhi, India



13.5 The KhetiValah Global Agri Conclave organized jointly by Haldhari's KhetiValah Foundation and Haldhari Technologies Pvt Ltd. garnered significant visibility both in India and internationally through its strong connection with farmers. This platform partnership with agricultural universities and experts from both national and international arenas. This 15 days ground-breaking event featured daily dialogues on 15 diverse themes related to agriculture and allied sectors. As a knowledge partner, CIRDAP played a crucial role by contributing distinguished speaker of Dr. P Chandra Shekara, Director General (DG) of CIRDAP. Through the interview, the DG of CIRDAP shared invaluable insights and best practices in rural development and sustainable agriculture.



Chapter 14: Social Media



Chapter 14: Social Media

14.1 Following four Social Media Platforms have been reorganized to reach the member countries.



14.2 The URL's of the Social Media

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/cirdap/>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/cirdap>
- **Twitter:** <https://x.com/cirdap79>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@cirdapofficialchannel>

Around 140 Messages published during 2024

14.3 Messages Reached

Messages reached through Social Media Channels are as follows

Facebook -74000
Linked in – 7963 (Only December, 2024)
Twitter (X) -7758

14.4 Krishi Jagran: MoU Signed with CIRDAP as a key media partner on 1 December 2024

Under the agreement, Krishi Jagran will serve as a key media partner to raise awareness about CIRDAP's initiatives and projects. The MOU includes the extension of the prestigious "Millionaire Farmers of India (MFOI) Awards" to CIRDAP member countries, recognizing farmers who exemplify innovation and sustainability in agriculture. Additionally, Krishi Jagran will become the official media partner for World Rural Development Day, an initiative led by CIRDAP and recognized by the United Nations. Krishi Jagran is planning to publish special issue on CIRDAP in the light of World Rural Development Day.

14.5 The official YouTube Channel of CIRDAP was launched in 2024 with the aim of enhancing knowledge dissemination across the Asia-Pacific region. The channel serves as a platform to showcase informative videos on a variety of thematic topics relevant to rural development. Currently, it features 40 recorded webinars, covering diverse subjects and highlighting best practices and experiences from CIRDAP member countries. In 2024, Total Videos uploaded is 49. The Subscribers as on date: 63 and Total Views: 1031.

Chapter 15: CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC)



Chapter 15: CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC)

Since the beginning of establishment, CIRDAP Auditorium and CICC is famous & most busy one across the country. Over the years the popularity of CIRDAP Auditorium has increased & in the context of a felt need in commensurate with the new look of CIRDAP, GOB constructed a multi-storied building with International Conference facilities which was inaugurated in 11 March 2013. The purpose of CICC and Auditorium is to organize more



international and national training, workshop, conferences and official meetings, extend facilities to national & international organizations for conducting training, workshop, conferences and official meetings, establish an international communication Technology ICT center with support from all CIRDAP member countries to make it a regional hub of ICT.

15.1 Since 2016 to 2024, CICC successfully organized 2,218 programs and facilitated 2,46,395 people of different nationalities. At the beginning of last year, it was predicted that 2024 would be the challenging year for CICC because of political instability and tension across the country but the flow of the success was also consistent in 2024. Every year CICC contribute CIRDAP significantly and plays a very vital role to uphold the image of this organization in the society. In 2024, we successfully organized 258 programs and facilitate 20,174 people of different organizations and backgrounds. In the year of 2024, the income from the hall rent, food and others was BDT 2,23,10,913/=

Total number of program held at CICC & Auditorium in 2024			
Year	Month	Total program	Total participants
2024	January	18	1018
	February	25	1818
	March	30	2025
	April	15	1069
	May	41	3159
	June	20	2050
	July	6	606
	August	5	592
	September	14	1317
	October	24	2190
	November	29	1424
	December	31	2906
		258	20174

Chapter 16: Policy Body Meetings/Communications



Chapter 16: Policy Body Meetings/Communications

16.1 Executive Committee (EC-34th) and Governing Council (GC-24th) Meetings

The 34th Session of the Executive Committee and the 24th Session of the Governing Council meetings were organized successfully during 4-5 June 2024 and 6 June 2024 at the Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, respectively.



34th Executive Committee Meeting



24th Governing Council Meeting

16.2 Technical Committee (TC-39th) Meeting

The 39th Session of the Technical Committee meeting was organized successfully during 5-7 August, 2024 at the Hatten Hotel Melaka, Malacca, Malaysia. After that a Rural Symposium of Malaysia was held on 8 August, 2024 where CIRDAP technical committee members were also attended.



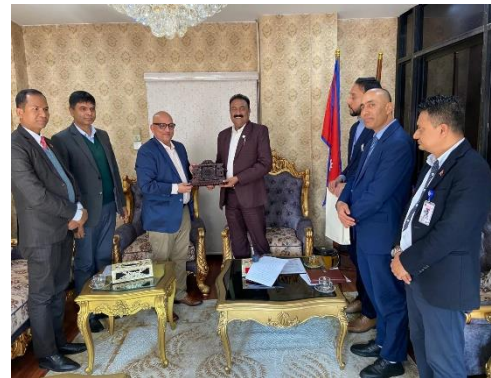
16.3 Communications with the policy bodies



The Director General of CIRDAP, H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, had the honour of meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, H.E. Md Jashim Uddin December 18, 2024. During their discussion, they reviewed CIRDAP's membership status and ongoing activities, and explored potential avenues for further progress. The Foreign Secretary expressed full support for CIRDAP activities and assured all support from Government of Bangladesh. The DG also highlighted the upcoming World Rural Development Day on July 6 and the expansion of CIRDAP's member countries. CIRDAP expresses gratitude for the Foreign Secretary's guidance and looks forward to continued cooperation to drive rural development initiatives forward.

DG, CIRDAP had Courtesy Meeting with Honourable Minister of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration MoFAGA, Nepal Sri. Raj kumar Gupta at Singh Durbar, Kathmandu December 12, 2024.

DG appraised Honorable minister on the initiatives of CIRDAP and sought the participation and support of Nepal. Also discussed about areas of mutual interest. Senior officials of the ministry were present during the meeting



DG CIRDAP, attended a special reception on December 5, 2024, hosted by H.E. Mrs. Makawadee Sumitmor, Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, in celebration of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The event was a grand occasion to honor the long-standing ties between Thailand and Bangladesh, marking a significant moment for diplomatic and cultural relations between the two nations. Honorable advisor of interim government of Bangladesh, HE Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Science and Technology also present in the event.

The DG of CIRDAP met with Ambassador of IR Iran to Bangladesh, H.E Mansour Chavoshi in the Embassy of Iran to Bangladesh, Dhaka November 25, 2024. In this courtesy meeting, both the officials discussed ways to strengthen linkages between IR IRAN and CIRDAP. The Head of Administration and Finance Officer of CIRDAP were also present in the meeting.



A courtesy meeting with Advisor H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh on November 7, 2024 was paid by DG, CIRDAP and discussed about CIRDAP activities.

The Director General of CIRDAP met with the Honorable Agriculture Minister of IR IRAN H.E. Gholamreza Nouri Ghezaljah at Tehran, Iran October 14, 2024 and discussed about strengthening working relationship between CIRDAP and IR Iran.



DG of CIRDAP met with the Dr. Ali Kiani Rad, Director General of Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDI), Tehran, IR Iran October 13, 2024 and discussed about activities of CIRDAP and involvement of APERDI in CIRDAP activities.



DG CIRDAP met with H.E. Dharmapala Weerakkody, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh on October 1, 2024. They had fruitful discussion on integrated rural development issues in the region and also agreed for mutual cooperation.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, DG, CIRDAP meet with H.E Pranay Verma, High Commissioner, Embassy of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh September 30, 2024. During the fruitful conversation, the two officials discussed on various facets of integrated rural development. CIRDAP Head of Administration Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq also present in the discussion.



DG CIRDAP met with H.E Heru Hartanto Subolo, Ambassador, Embassy of the republic of Indonesia, Dhaka, Bangladesh September 30, 2024. Cordial discussion has taken place between the officials. Mr. Arif Suyoko, Minister Counsellor and Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq Head of Administration also present in the meeting.

The DG of CIRDAP met with H.E Syed Ahmed Maroof, High Commissioner of Pakistan, Bangladesh in a courtesy meeting at the premise of the Embassy September 25, 2024. Both the officials discussed on strengthening bondage between CIRDAP and Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the member countries of the organization. Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration, CIRDAP also present there.





DG CIRDAP met with Ambassador H.E Ghanshyam Bhandari, Embassy of Nepal, Bangladesh in a courtesy meeting at the premises of the Embassy September 25, 2024. Both the officials discussed on strengthening bondage between CIRDAP and Nepal. Nepal is one of the member countries of the organization. Ms. Yojana Bamjan, Second Secretary, Embassy of Nepal and Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration, CIRDAP were also presented there.

A courtesy meeting held between DG CIRDAP and Dr. Jiaoqun Shi, Food and Agriculture (FAO) Representative in Bangladesh on September 24, 2024. In the meeting, the two heads are discussed about strengthening cooperation for Agriculture Development. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the member of Technical Committee of CIRDAP.



Chapter 17: Administration



Chapter 17: Administration

17.1 A Heartfelt Farewell to the Former DG Dr. Cherdsak Virapat



The Director General (outgoing) (DG) of CIRDAP Dr. Cherdsak Virapat completed his four-years of journey (2020 – 2024) on 9th September 2024. Dr. Virapat joined in 2020 during the covid pandemic time.

On 9th September 2024, the CIRDAP secretariat organized a warm and heartfelt farewell ceremony for Dr. Cherdsak Virapat to recognize his valuable contributions for achieving the vision of CIRDAP – the Centre of excellence. With his exceptional leadership and contributions, he introduced CIRDAP in various platforms through engaging different types of initiatives.

DG CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara praised about Dr. Virapat's vision, passion, and integrity in the welcome speech of the ceremony. The ceremony was concluded with a tribute to DG's accomplishments, and reflections from staff.



17.2 General Administrative Matters

- CIRDAP made communications with the Secretary of Rural development Division Bangladesh, H.E. Advisor of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take appropriate steps for the maintenance of CIRDAP Campus.
- Bangladesh Metro Rail authority has completed construction of the CIRDAP Boundary wall, and placed the Flagpoles and a new Signboard.
- Initiative has been taken for proper maintenance of lawn.
- Twelve weekly review meetings have been conducted by DG for rigorous monitoring of the activities.
- Service contract with IT Service Provider has been revised to provide services on Development and Management of CIRDAP website, Graphics work, IT supports, Network supports and Hardware supports.
- Group Health and Life Insurance Contract with Guardian Life Insurance Limited for fixed term staff members has been renewed.
- Renewal of Pest Control with Zero Pest.
- Service contract for Internet Service with BDCOM is renewed.
- Service contract with Orion Security Services Limited is renewed.
- Contract renewed for DG residence at Gulshan,
- Contract renewed with Unicore for housekeeping.
- Garbage removal contract is renewed.

17.2.1 Staff Matters - Secondment, Mentors, and temporarily hired person

- Under Temporary employment contract:
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Executive Officer CICC
 - Assistant Administrative Officer (Admin)
 - Medical Consultant (Part-time)
 - Cook
 - Executive Officer (Finance)
- Mr. FAM Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration has been assigned as OIC for the LKMD division, till the joining of the Director of LKMD.

17.2.2 Recruitment (Core position)

- Dr. P. Chandra Shekara from India has joined as Director General, CIRDAP on 19 August 2024 for four years (2024-2028).

- Dr. Muhammad Israr, Secretary, Agriculture Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan has been appointed for the second term for the position of IRD expert of CIRDAP during EC 34/GC 24 meeting held on 4- 6 June 2024.
- Vacancy announcement of following three core positions has been circulated amongst the CIRDAP Members Countries: Director (Research), Programme Officer (Research) and Programme Officer (Learning) and sought nominations from member countries.

17.2.3 Separation (Core position)

- Dr. Cherdasak Virapat, Director General (2020-2024) completed his mission with CIRDAP on 9 September 2024.
- Prof. Mr. Mohammed Helal Uddin, Director Research separated from CIRDAP upon tendering his resignation letter effective from 7 October 2024. Vacancy announcement has been made for fresh recruitment.
- Electrician Mr. Monir Hossain has passed away on 5 February 2024
- Mr. Haripada Bhowmik, (former) Executive Officer Finance, Retired on 30 June 2024

As of December 31, 2024, total number of employees is 25 including one professional staff and other general service staff.

Chapter 18: Finance



Chapter 18: Finance

Sources of funds

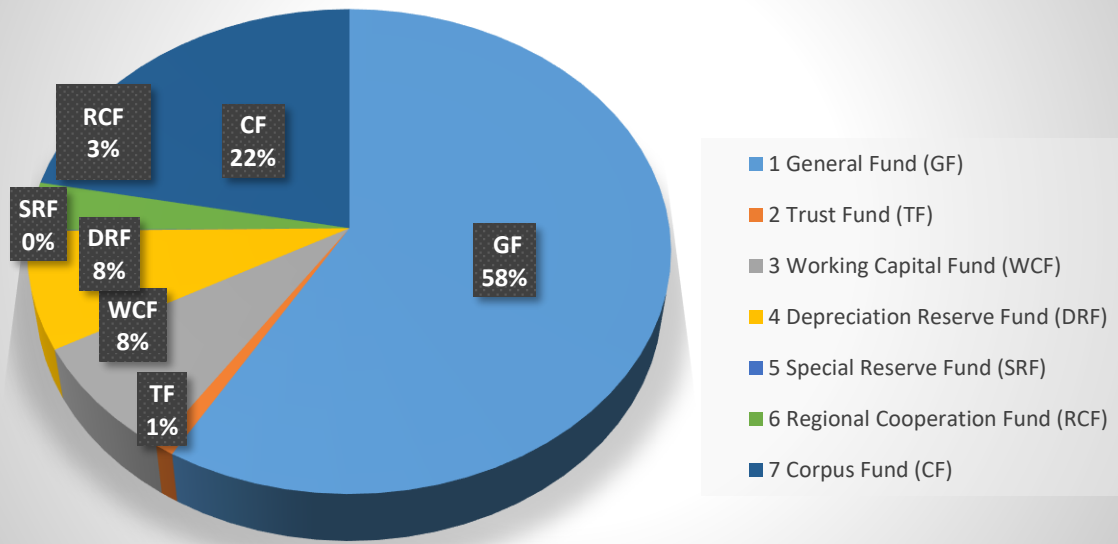
- (i) **General Fund (GF)** - Regular contribution from the CMCs for the administrative and programme support budget;
- (ii) **Trust Fund (TF)** - Grants from the donor countries/agencies for programmatic activities ;
- (iii) **Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)** - Voluntary Contribution of Member Countries for specific programme purposes; and
- (iv) **Corpus Fund (CF)** - Generated from Auditorium and Cafeteria income. Only interest earned is utilized for programme purposes.
- (v) **Working Capital Fund (WCF)** - The fund established by the Governing Council to finance budgetary appropriations pending receipt of Member's Contributions and for such other purposes as may be authorized.
- (vi) **Special Reserve Fund (SRF)** - Funded out of interest earned on investment of Trust Funds to finance projects for which funds cannot be arranged from other sources.
- (vii) **Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)** - Established for replacement of old furniture, equipment, vehicles, etc.

Audit of the Accounts

The audit of the interim Financial Statement of CIRDAP of the 22nd Biennium (2022-2023) was conducted by Cooperative Auditing Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand. The auditor also expressed that *"The accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the CIRDAP as at December 31, 2023, and its financial performance for the Twenty Second Biennium then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and CIRDAP's financial regulation."*

CIRDAP Fund Status as at 31st December, 2023		
SL	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund (GF)	995,800
2	Trust Fund (TF)	14,965
3	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	133,292
5	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	883
6	Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)	54,949
7	Corpus Fund (CF)	373,071
	TOTAL	1,703,277

**CIRDAP Fund Status as at
31st December, 2023 (Amount in US\$)**



ANNEXURE-1

List of the Executives of the CIRDAP- Institute of Kemajuan Desa (INFRA), international training on 'Rural Tourism towards Integrated Rural Development', 09 – 17 October 2024

Executive Name	Organization	Country
Mr. Junaed Rahim, Joint Director	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla	Bangladesh
Mr. Mosese Vatukona Taria, Senior Economic Planning Officer - Economics	Development Services Division, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development	Fiji
Ms. Ratna Bhuyan, Assistant Professor	National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)	India
Mr. Muhammad Pandu Bimantoro, Staff of Planning Division	Directorate General of Village Administration, Ministry of Home Affairs	Indonesia
Sayed Mohammad Jafar Esfahani (Mr.), Assistant Professor and Director	Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI)	IR Iran
Mr. Souk Sakhone Phoxay	Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Lao PDR
Mr. Ahmad Al-Farooqi bin Haja Mohideen, Assistant Manager	Penang Regional Development Authority (PERDA)	Malaysia
Ms. Htet Moh Moh Oo, Assistant Director	Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development	Myanmar
Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Deputy Director	Local Development Training Academy, Ministry of Federal Administration and General Administration	Nepal
Mr. Miran Mohiyuddin, Joint Secretary	Establishment Division, Cabinet Secretariat	Pakistan

Ms. Godawatta Vidanage Norica Aiome, Research Officer	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries	Sri Lanka
Ms. Cheeranun Thaisuchat, Agricultural Extensionist, Professional Level	Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
Dr. HO NGOC NINH (Mr.), Vice Dean	Faculty of Tourism and Foreign Languages, Vietnam National University of Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam

ANNEXURE-2

CIRDAP Staff Profile

Professional and General Service Staff Members in 2024

Name	Designation	Joining Date	Separation Date
Dr. P. Chandra Shekara	Director General	10.09.2024	
Dr. Cherdsak Virapat	(Former) Director General	10.09.2020	10.09.2024
Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin	(Former) Director Research	01.01.2020	07.10.2024
Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq	Administrative Officer	01.03.2018	
Ms. Hurain Jannat	Communication Officer	01.12.2019	
Mr. Shishir Gobinda Saha	Finance Officer	15.12.2016	
Dr. Usharani Boruah	Librarian	10.07.2007	
Mr. Deba Datta Chakma	Sr. Secretary, DG	17.06.2010	
Most. Najma Yeasmin	Assistant Administrative Officer (HR)	02.10.2011	

Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	Executive Officer Finance	15.09.1996	01.07.2024
Ms. Tahsina Tabassum Sajuti	Executive Assistant (Research)	01.12.2020	
Mr. Shimul Barua	Driver	13.06.2007	
Mr. Kallol Barua	Driver	27.12.2009	
Mr. Biplob Kumar Dhar	Driver	07.08.2012	
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	Machine Operator	07.08.2012	
Mr. Bishu Chandra Das	Technical Operator	01.06.1992	
Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed	Messenger	01.07.1998	
Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam	Bearer-Cook	01.05.2000	
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Molla	Gardener	17.10.2007	
Mr. Sujit Chandra Das	Janitor	07.08.2012	
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	Janitor	07.08.2012	
Mr. Martin Does	Watchman	07.08.2012	

Short-Term Staff Members in 2024

Name	Designation	Joining Date	Separation Date
Mr. Saiful Islam	Medical Consultant (Part-time)	02.07.2006	
Mr. Shahariar Haque	Executive Officer (CICC)	02.07.2020	
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal	Administrative Assistant	02.07.2020	
Mr. Md. Monir Hossain	Technician	02.07.2020	05.02.2024
Mr. Md. Raju Ahmed	Cook	01.11.2021	
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	Assistant Administrative Officer (Admin)	01.02.2022	
Mr. Md. Zakaria Haider	Website Consultant	15.06.2023	15.01.2024
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	Executive Officer Finance	01.07.2024	01.11.2024
Mr. Md. Shahinur Rahman	Research Assistant	18.07.2023	18.10.2024
Mr. Habibur Rahman	Finance Assistant	01.10.2024	

ANNEXURE-3

CIRDAP Experts

Name of the Expert	Organization/ Institute	Country
Prof. Dr. Mehedi Ahmed Ansary	Professor, Department of Civil Engg., BUET	Bangladesh
Swisa Ariyaprichya	Section Head, Puey Ungphakorn Institute for Economic Research	Thailand
Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya	Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj	India
Pongpat Boonchuwong	Advisor (Retired economist in Department of Fisheries (DOF)	Thailand
Mihai Burca	Technologist, National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS	Trieste, Italy
Arulappu George Chandra Babu,	Agriculture Specialist, Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP), Ministry of Agriculture,	Sri Lanka
Dr. Usharani Boruah	Librarian, CIRDAP	India
Ms Rakhi Barua	Senior Programme Coordinator, Centre for Disability in Development	Bangladesh
Dr. Suthet Chandrucka,	President, Smart Group Consultant,	Thailand
Suchana Apple Chavanich	Professor, Chulalongkorn University	Thailand
H.E Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana,	Secretary General, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)	Kuwait
Shahram Dadgar	Head of Fish Nutrition group and Consultant to the director General of IFSRI, Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFSRI)	IR Iran
Dr. Grinson George	Principal Scientist & HoD, Marine Biodiversity and Environment Management Division, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Kochi, Kerala, India
Binoy Goswami	Assistant Professor (Senior Grade), South Asian University	India
A S M Rashedul Haque	Former Director General, Department of Fisheries,	Bangladesh
Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain	Senior Program Officer, Agriculture Division, Asian Productivity Organization (APO)	Japan
Dr. Mohammad Shariful Islam,	Professor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)	Bangladesh
Mrs. Jaruwan Jan-in,	Cooperative Technical Officer, Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
Dr. Bunjirtluk Jintaridth	Expert in Acid Soils, Land Development Department	Thailand

Dr. Achara Khamaksorn	Acting Assistant Dean, College of Arst, Media and Technology Chiang Mai University	Thailand.
Dr. Kulapa Kuldilok,	Assistant Professor, Kasetsart University,	Bangkok, Thailand
Dr. Tavida Kamolvej	Dean, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University	THAILAND
Choomjet Karnjanakesorn	National Law and Resources Management, Department of Fisheries,	Thailand
Prof. Nicholas Kathijotes	Professor Adj. University of Nicosia,	Cyprus
Supawat Komolmlarl,	Director of ICT : Thai Department of Fisheries	Thailand
Dr. Watcharas Leelawath,	Honorary Advisor, Bolliger & Company	Thailand
Somboon Laoprasert	Consultant and Advisor	Thailand
Rossukhon Makaramani, Rose	Professor, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU),	Thailand
Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Malik	Director (Rtired), Freelance Consultant and Master Trainer, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources	Pakistan
Dr. Farhad Mirzaei,	Senior Researcher, Animal Science Research Institute	IR Iran
Dr. K. Prabhakar	Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR),	India
Sumol Pinphangnga,	Civil Engineer, Fisheries Engineering, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
Suthep Putippayawongsa,	Shrimp Expert	Thailand
Dr. Prasit Pongruengphant,	Quality Control and Quality Assurance Consultant	Thailand
Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo	Senior Program Officer for FAO Representation Network (Asia-Pacific), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Thailand
Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran	Professor, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development	India
Dr. Hossein Shahbaz	In charge of International Cooperation, Supportive Fund of Investment Development in Agriculture (SFIDA), Ministry of Agriculture,	IR Iran
Mr. Bunluesak Sorajjakit,	CEO, Thai Union Feedmill Public Company Limited	Thailand
Dr. Brian Szuster,	Professor, University of Hawaii	USA
Dr. Nuanchan Singkran,	University Professor in Environmental Science, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University,	Thailand

Prof. S K Singh	Freelance Consultant, Former Director (Training), CIRDAP	India
Mr. Tinnakorn Tatong,	Inspector General, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MoNRE)	Thailand
Prof. Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin	Director Research, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)	Bangladesh
Dr. Cherdsak Virapat	Director General, CIRDAP	Thailand
Prof. Joeli Veitayaki	Former Acting Campus Director, USP Samoa Campus, University of the South Pacific (USP),	Fiji.
Chavalit Vidthayanon	Independent Consultant on Biodiversity	Thailand
Dr. Poh Poh Wong,	Visiting Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, University of Adelaide, South Australia, Australia	Singapore
Dr. Chuchee Wongsupap	Water resources-environmental modelling expert, School of Engineering and Technology, Asian Institute of Technology.	Thailand
A K M Abdullah Al Amin	Assistant Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University	Bangladesh
Md Shahjahan Ali	General Manager In Agriculture (Retired), Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) under the Ministry of Industries	Bangladesh
Dr. Manzoor Alam,	Associate or Adjunct Professor, University of Helsinki,	Finland
Dr. Fredrick Abeyratne,	Consultant, UNDP	Sri Lanka
Dr. Manikandan A D	Post-Doctoral Fellow, International Institute for Population Sciences	Kerala, India
Dr. Muhammad Ashraf	Chairman, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources	Pakistan
Dr. Parama Bannerji	Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, NBPC College,	Kolkata, India
Sudipa Basu	Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Barisal	Bangladesh
Dr. Shubhasish Barua,	Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka	Bangladesh
Dr. Sommarat Chantararat	Research director, Puey Ungphakorn Institute for Economic Research, Bank of Thailand	Thailand
Professor Ravindra Gavali	Professor and Head, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	India
Muhammad Arif Goheer	Head - Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use, Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC)	Pakistan
Mohammad Ismail Hossain	Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University	Bangladesh
Dr. Afsana Haque	Professor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)	Bangladesh
Mr. Tareq Zahirul Haque	Consultant/PhD student, RMIT University,	Melbourne, Australia

Muhammad Kamrul Hassan	Independent, Program Development & Management Profession	Bangladesh
Dr. Md Monjurul Islam	Associate Professor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University,	Bangladesh
Dr. Suchart Ingthamjitr	Retired Government Officer, Kasetsart University,	Thailand
Dr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam	Deputy Manager of Society, Bangladesh Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (MilkVita)	Bangladesh
Dr. Krian Jalem	Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj & Central University of Jharkhand	India
Professor Muhammad Irfan Khan,	Professor of Environmental Science and Dean, Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences, International Islamic University,	Islamabad-Pakistan
Dr. SM Zobaidul Kabir	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh Secretariat	Bangladesh
Mohd Shanawaz Kashif	Former Project Scientist-GIS, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific	India
Dr. Perar Keshavanath	Former Dean (Fisheries), Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University,	India
Dr. Narongsak Khuboonyarak	Judge for the juveniles Office of the Mahasakham Provincial Court	Thailand
Dr. Panya Sae-Lim	Senior Geneticist, Mowi Genetics	Thailand
Dr. Puji Lestari	Researcher, Chairman of Research Organization of Agriculture and Food, Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional,	Indonesia
Sayed Ahmad Mohaddes,	Assistant Professor, Agricultural And Natural Resources Research And Educational Center Of Khorassan Razavie Province,	IR Iran
Dr. Voraprapa Nakavachara	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University	Thailand
Ghanshyam Pandey,	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, SRM University AP,	Andhra Pradesh, India
Dr. Phu Xuan Pham,	Senior lecturer and researcher, An Giang University, a member of Ho Chi Minh City National University,	Viet Nam
Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi,	Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)	India
Dr. M. V. Ravibabu	Associate Professor, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)	India
Muhammad Shakeel Ahmad Ramay	Chief Executive Officer, Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and Development,	Pakistan
Dr. Sonal Mobar Roy	Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	India

Dr. Achmad Rachman,	Senior Technical Advisor, Ministry of Home Affairs	Indonesia
Ms. Rezoyana Kabir Rasha	Assistant Professor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University,	Bangladesh
Professor G V Raju	National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR),	India.
Dr. R Ramesh	Associate Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	India
Tomasi Vasulailai Raiyawa,	Formerly Strategic Planning Officer, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)	Fiji
Dr. Apurba Roy	Assistant Professor, University of Barishal	Bangladesh
Md Mahbubur Rahman	Research Assistant, Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE), Massey University,	New Zealand
Professor M. Srikanth	Associate Professor, NIRDPR	India
Dr. Fiaz Hussain Shah	Chairman, Integrated Resilience Network Pvt Ltd	Pakistan
Dr. Muhammad Waseem	Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marines Sciences, Uthal, Lasbela,	Pakistan
Dr. Md Abu Yousuf	Secretary General, Association for Mass Advancement Network (AMAN)	Bangladesh
Dr. Aongart Aun-a-nan	Computer Technical Officer, Information and Communication Technology Center, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand	Thailand
Dr. V K Arora	Chief Executive Officer IGDTUW Anveshan Foundation, New Delhi	India
Dr. Shahid Ahmed	National Coordinator, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council	Pakistan
Md. Mahadhe Hasan	PhD Research Fellow, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)	Bangladesh
Dr. Rajesh Jayaraman	Manager (GIS), Erda Illumine Low Carbon Solutions Pvt Ltd	India
Parimal Kumar Roy	Deputy Director, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center	Bangladesh
Dr. Yudhistira Nugraha	Head of Research Center for Food Crops/Researcher, Research Organization for Agriculture and Food, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	Indonesia
Dr. Shishir Kumar Munshi	Director (Agriculture & Environment), Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)	Bangladesh
Dr. P. KUMARAVEL, M.V.Sc., Ph.D.	Professor, Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Madras Veterinary College	India

Suthep Putippayawongsa		
Mr. Pawan Kumar	Development Professional	India
Manish Saxena	Senior Consultant (ICT)	India
Mr. Yuvaraju A	Director - Innovation Management, T-hub Foundation	India
Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri	Scientific Advisor-Research and Partnerships, Orissa Foundation	India
Dr. Yaser Rahimian	Animal Scientist & Nutritionist, Agriculture Organization of Jihad (Chahrmahal and Bakhtiari Province)	IR Iran



CENTRE ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (CIRDAP)

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