

# VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities

**ISSUE 16, DECEMBER 2025**

**World Rural Development Day 2025**

**Integrated, Inclusive, Sustainable and Enterprising Rural Development**



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

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

**Dear Partners,  
Wish you all Happy New Year**

The year 2025 stands out as a landmark year for CIRDAP, marked by global recognition, expanded partnerships, and impactful programmes across Member Countries. CIRDAP successfully organized the 40th Technical Committee Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, with participation from all Member Countries. The meeting approved programmes and the budget for 2026-27 and recommended enhanced contributions, reaffirming strong collective support for CIRDAP's work.

In a historic development, 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. CIRDAP celebrated the

first event with a theme "Integrated, Inclusive, sustainable and Enterprising Rural Development" and the message echoed in member countries specially Myanmar, India and Fiji through impactful celebrations.

All planned training programmes were completed on time, along with two additional self-financed trainings on SMEs and Startups in India and Thailand. In-house capacity building was strengthened through faculty training and a programme on the Application of Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace. The CIRDAP Knowledge Circuit was launched, with events already held in Myanmar and India.

CIRDAP's webinar series continued to grow, engaging nearly 1,000 professionals, with speakers from the USA, Taiwan, Kenya, and Pacific Island countries. The webinars were attended by around one thousand professionals representing member countries. CIRDAP research on Gender Responsive Budgeting in Nepal and Livelihood Promotion among Transgender Communities in India received strong stakeholder interest. Major publications on Integrated Rural Development, Agri-Food Systems, Climate Resilience, Entrepreneurship, Food and Nutrition Security, and Rural Tourism reached over 1.2 lakh stakeholders across Member Countries.

The CIRDAP Project Facilitation Centre was operationalized, receiving eight project proposals worth USD 4.8 million. The CIRDAP-REEDS Rural Innovation Challenge 2026 was launched to identify and promote high-impact rural innovations.

Gender mainstreaming has always been the priority of CIRDAP. International Women Day and World Rural Women day were celebrated by involving 30 inspiring women from member countries. We got the great opportunity to listen to their successful journey. The same were circulated through social media too.

107 renowned experts from different parts of the world were empanelled as CIRDAP Experts who are extended family of CIRDAP. About 32 reputed organisations in CIRDAP member countries serving rural communities have partnered with CIRDAP to reach more rural population jointly.

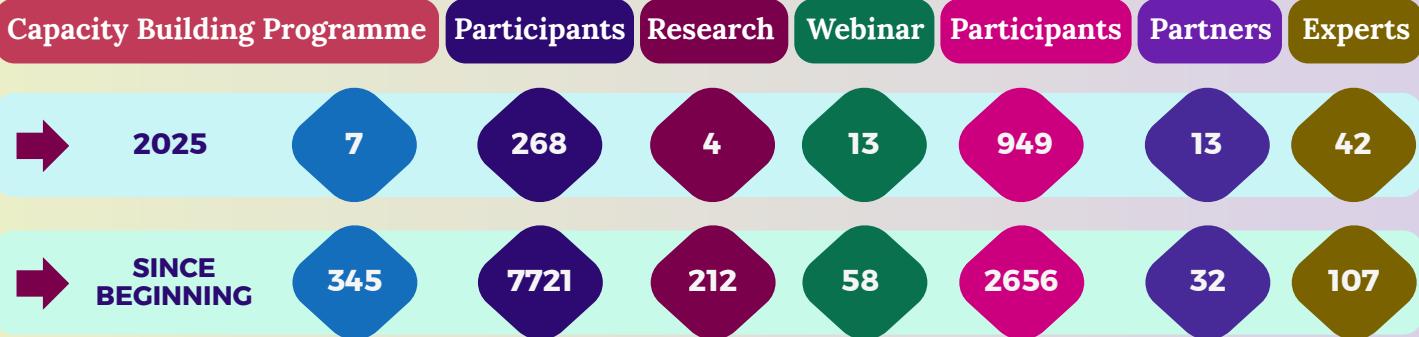
Social media has been effectively used to disseminate useful rural development content regularly reaching 1.2 Million viewers. CIRDAP is in the process of extending its service area by approaching 40 other Asia and Pacific countries to accept the CIRDAP membership and the response is encouraging.

Let us continue to work towards Integrated, Inclusive, Sustainable and Enterprising Rural Development.



With Warm Wishes

**Dr. P. Chandra Shekara  
Director General, CIRDAP**



### WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



#### A GLOBAL RECOGNITION – UN DECLARES JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> AS THE WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



United Nations  
General Assembly

UNGA Adopted the Resolution  
Proclaiming 6th July (Every Year) as  
the "World Rural Development Day"

Let's celebrate the World Rural Development Day  
on 6th of July every year  
which is the foundation day of CIRDAP



#### SOCIAL MEDIA



Engaging 1.2M+ views through  
CIRDAP's Social Media platforms.

#### CIRDAP PROJECT FACILITATION CENTRE



CIRDAP Launches Project  
Facilitation Centre • Empowering  
Ideas • Transforming Rural Lives

#### PUBLICATIONS AND CIRCULATIONS



20 publications circulated to  
1.20 lakh stakeholders.

#### CIRDAP - REEDS INTERNATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2026



One Innovation. Endless  
Change. Countless Smiles

## CIRDAP and GLAD Myanmar Signed MoU - Joint Commitment to Innovation Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

CIRDAP is delighted to form a new partnership with Green Life Alliance for Development Myanmar through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting stronger cooperation in rural and agricultural development across the Asia and Pacific region.

Through this collaboration both parties will work together to enhance knowledge exchange, capacity building, technology transfer, and community driven development. The focus areas include agriculture, rural livelihoods, climate resilience, food and nutrition systems, women and youth empowerment, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in development initiatives.



The signing ceremony took place on 01 December 2025. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Mr FAM Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration, CIRDAP and Mr Aung Zaw Win, Executive Director of Green Life Alliance for



Development. The event was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Dr P Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP along with senior representatives from both organisations.

This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to improving the lives of rural communities by promoting innovation, capacity strengthening, and practical solutions for sustainable development.

## CIRDAP Knowledge Series 47-Highlights of Pacific Islands Development Forum



CIRDAP organized its 47th Knowledge Series webinar on 04 December 2025, featuring the Pacific Islands Development Forum as a leading regional platform for sustainable development. CIRDAP was honored to welcome Ms. Arpana Pratap, Director of Blue Economy at the Pacific Islands Development Forum, as the distinguished speaker. Ms. Arpana shared valuable insights on the journey of the Forum, its vision of "A United, Distinctive and Sustainable Pacific Society," and its strong role in promoting green and blue economic transformation across the Pacific region.



The Pacific Islands Development Forum was formally endorsed by Pacific Island leaders in 2012 in Denarau, Fiji. It was established to bring together leaders from government, private sector, and civil society to promote green economic policies in Pacific Small Island Developing States. Since then, the Forum has led many important initiatives to support rural, coastal, and marginalized communities. Full webinar is available in CIRDAP's YouTube Channel.



The webinar highlighted major programs such as the Pacific Green Business Centre, the Bamboo Initiative, the Seaweed Initiative, Renewable Energy and Green Economy Capacity Building, Solar Heads of State, and Blue Economy Initiatives. Participants gained practical knowledge on how these programs are improving livelihoods, empowering communities, and strengthening climate resilience across the Pacific islands.

CIRDAP sincerely thanks the speaker and all participants for making this session engaging and meaningful.

## Call for CIRDAP Research Proposals 2026: Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities

CIRDAP is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for Research Projects 2026 under the theme “Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities.” This initiative reaffirms CIRDAP’s commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable rural development through evidence-based research and knowledge sharing.

The call invites innovative and policy-relevant proposals from CIRDAP Experts, MoU Partners, Link Institutions, Academic and Research Organizations, Civil Society Groups, and Government Agencies across CIRDAP Member Countries. Priority areas include Community-driven development, Rural entrepreneurship, Youth engagement, Gender empowerment, Climate resilience, and innovations in rural service delivery.

Two projects will be selected for 2026, each receiving USD 6,000 in financial support along with technical guidance from the CIRDAP Secretariat. The research should be completed within one year, culminating in a publishable report or case study to enrich regional policy dialogue.

The deadline for proposal submission is 15 January 2026. Proposals should be submitted electronically to [ea\\_research@cirdap.org](mailto:ea_research@cirdap.org) (cc: [director\\_research@cirdap.org](mailto:director_research@cirdap.org)) with the subject line “Proposal Submission – Research Project 2026.”

## Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development ,Volume 35, Issue 2, December 2025, Released

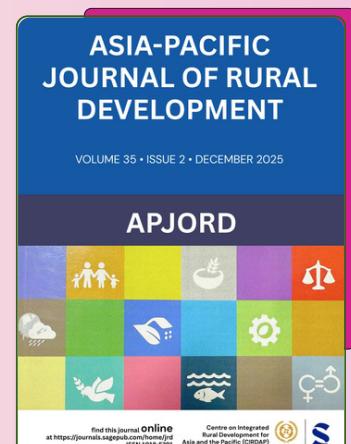
CIRDAP is pleased to announce the release of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), Volume 35, Issue 2, December 2025.

As a flagship publication of CIRDAP, APJORD continues to serve as a critical platform for addressing key issues and fostering discussions on Rural Development, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

This bi-annual academic journal is designed to provide a forum for academics, policymakers, NGOs, research scholars and all other stakeholders interested in IRD to exchange insights, field observations, and empirical research on rural development.

If you are interested in access to full journal, kindly visit this link below:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/JRD/current>



CIRDAP extends its warmest congratulations to Associate Professor Dr. Ali KianiRad, Executive Committee Member of CIRDAP and Director General of the Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), Ministry of Agriculture Jahad, Islamic Republic of Iran, on his new appointment at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters in Rome.

This prestigious role is a remarkable achievement and a well-deserved recognition of his expertise, leadership, and longstanding dedication to advancing agricultural and rural development.

During his tenure as a member of the CIRDAP Executive Committee, Dr. KianiRad has provided invaluable guidance, insightful policy advice, and steadfast support to CIRDAP.

CIRDAP conveys its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Dr. KianiRad. We look forward to continued engagement and cooperation in the years ahead.



### **CIRDAP-REEDS Upcoming Rural Development Innovation Challenge - 2026**

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), in collaboration with the Rural Economic and Educational Development Society (REEDS), is preparing to launch an exciting new initiative titled the Rural Development Innovation Challenge. This upcoming programme aims to identify, support and promote groundbreaking ideas that can transform rural lives across CIRDAP's fifteen Member Countries in Asia and Pacific Region.

Rural communities across Asia and the Pacific continue to face multiple and interconnected challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate risks, limited access to education and healthcare, poor infrastructure, lack of digital connectivity, and restricted employment opportunities leading to youth migration. Recognizing these pressing issues, the Innovation Challenge will serve as a platform to inspire creative solutions and practical models that can address these challenges and contribute to sustainable rural transformation.

The CIRDAP-REEDS Innovation Challenge will call for submissions from experts, agencies, ministries, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and individuals from CIRDAP Member Countries. Entries may include innovative technologies, processes, policy models, success stories, or community-based initiatives that demonstrate measurable impact and potential for scaling up.

Through this initiative, CIRDAP seeks to:

- Encourage innovation and creativity in tackling rural challenges.
- Promote low-cost, high-impact, and inclusive solutions.
- Empower women, youth, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable groups.
- Advance progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Innovation Challenge will offer recognition, awards, and opportunities for collaboration, spotlighting the most outstanding rural innovations emerging from within CIRDAP Member Countries. Last date of submission : 28 February 2026.

For details please click the link below:

[The Innovation Challenge will offer recognition, awards, and opportunities for collaboration, spotlighting the most outstanding rural innovations emerging from within CIRDAP Member Countries. Last date of submission : 28 February 2026.](#)

Stay tuned for more updates on how to participate in this upcoming initiative that promises to bring "One Innovation. Endless Change. Countless Smiles."

For future announcements and details, please contact: [communication\\_officer@cirdap.org](mailto:communication_officer@cirdap.org)





CIRDAP Director General HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara had a Courtesy Meeting with the Ambassador of Bhutan, Her Excellency Ms. Dasho Karma Hamu Dorjee, at the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 11 December, 2025. The Counsellor, Mr. Dawa Tshering, was also present during the meeting.

The discussion focused on enhancing cooperation and exploring opportunities to strengthen partnerships between CIRDAP and Bhutan in the field of integrated rural development.

This engagement highlights CIRDAP's commitment to building strong international partnerships and supporting member countries in achieving sustainable rural development goals. Both sides expressed enthusiasm for continued collaboration and the potential for future joint programs that will benefit communities across the region.

### **Kenya's Digital Evolution: Key Insights Shared at CIRDAP Knowledge Series Webinar**

CIRDAP successfully hosted the Knowledge Series 48 – Webinar on “Agriculture Development in Kenya: Learnings for Asia and the Pacific” on 11 December 2025.

The session highlighted how Kenya's digital-led transformation is reshaping its agricultural landscape and offering practical lessons for countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

The webinar was presented by Dr. Agnes Oywaya-Nkurumwa, Associate Professor of Agricultural Extension at Egerton University, Kenya. She shared how Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda is driving a shift from traditional agricultural practices toward a dynamic Digital Ecosystem, strengthened Climate Resilience, and Smart Market Access.



Key insights included:

- The rise of mobile-based platforms that connect farmers to finance, advisory services, and digital records.
- The use of satellite data to provide timely insurance support to pastoral communities.
- Modern logistics systems that link farmers directly to markets, reducing post-harvest losses and creating opportunities for women and youth.

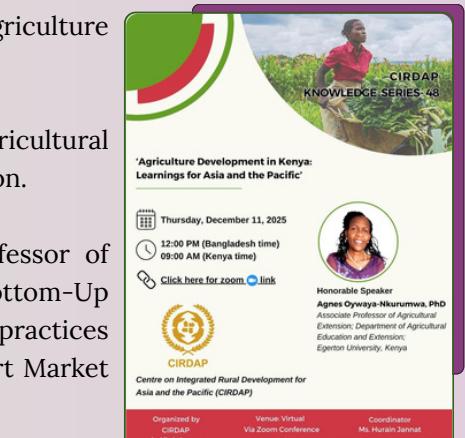
The webinar was attended by His Excellency Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, along with experts and participants from CIRDAP Member Countries, including a high number of representatives from Myanmar.

CIRDAP extends its appreciation to all participants for contributing to this enriching knowledge-sharing experience. Full Webinar is available in CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

### **Global Best Practices in Agricultural Cooperatives: DG CIRDAP participation at International Workshop in New Delhi, India**

The Director General of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, His Excellency Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, participated as a panelist in the International Workshop on “Best Practices in Agricultural Cooperatives in the Global Arena: Empowering Cooperatives in India for Sustainable Economic Growth and Rural Transformation,” held during 15–16 December 2025 at the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences Complex, New Delhi, India.

The international workshop was jointly organized by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the context of the United Nations declaring 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives under the theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World.”



During the workshop, Dr. P. Chandra Shekara made a presentation on sharing best practices in agricultural cooperatives from cooperatives across CIRDAP Member Countries. His presentation highlighted successful experiences, lessons learned, and innovative cooperative models that contribute to sustainable economic growth and rural transformation.

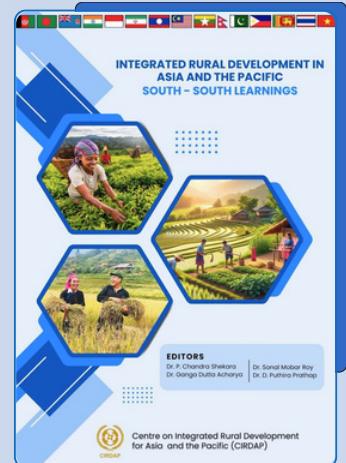


The workshop provided a valuable platform for leaders of agricultural cooperatives from India and the global community to exchange knowledge on leadership, governance, management, and sustainability of cooperatives, while strengthening international collaboration in the cooperative sector. The programme was also attended by six co-operative leaders from Philippines, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, representing CIRDAP Member Countries.

### CIRDAP Launches New Publication on Integrated Rural Development and South-South Learnings

CIRDAP proudly announces the launch of its latest publication, Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific: South-South Learnings. This volume brings together collective knowledge and regional experiences drawn from an extensive series of CIRDAP webinars that engaged practitioners, policymakers, researchers, innovators, and community leaders across Asia and the Pacific.

The publication captures insights from forty thematic webinars that explored critical dimensions of rural development, including food security, climate resilience, gender equality, digital transformation, inclusive governance, entrepreneurship, health systems, and disaster preparedness. Each contribution reflects real experiences and practical innovations rooted in local contexts, highlighting the importance of integrated, people-centered approaches to sustainable rural transformation.



Edited by Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Dr. Sonal Mobar Roy, and Dr. D. Puthira Prathap, this volume stands as a resource for policymakers, development professionals, researchers, and students committed to advancing resilient and inclusive rural communities. The publication also reflects CIRDAP's continued commitment to South-South cooperation, mutual learning, and respect for local knowledge in achieving sustainable development.

CIRDAP extends sincere appreciation to all presenters, facilitators, partner institutions, and contributors who made this publication possible.

Access the full book to the following link:

<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CIRDAP-Webinar-Book.pdf>

### “Action Lab for Inclusive Livelihoods: Advancing Transgender and Gender-Variant Youth Integration through Apparel Training”

CIRDAP and NIRDPR, India, have joined hands on an action research initiative titled “Action Lab for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youth in Mainstream Livelihood.” This pioneering project is designed to establish sustainable livelihood models for transgender and gender-diverse youth, ensuring their rightful inclusion in the mainstream economy. The Action Lab aims to:



- Collaborate with national initiatives and institutions to combat multidimensional poverty among transgender communities.
- Promote action-oriented research and develop inclusive policy frameworks.
- Provide technical support to livelihood programs and implement collaborative interventions.
- Document best practices and share knowledge widely to bridge gaps in skills, employment, resilient livelihoods, and entrepreneurial leadership.



As part of this initiative, Action Lab-2, the NIRDPR, in collaboration with PLEQSUS India Foundation, and supported by USHA International, conducted a training programme on 'Apparel Stitching' from November 12 to 26, 2025 at Baruipur, West Bengal. 15 transgender individuals were trained during this 15-day training programme. USHA International, which had an MoU with NIRDPR for this initiative, provided a professional trainer and 15 stitching machines (14 sewing machines and 1 interlock machine) worth INR 85,000 under its CSR activity. During the training, participants mastered stitching skills, including the Six-cut saya (petticoat), boys' school uniforms (shirts and pleated half - pants), girls' kameez, and strong, reusable cloth tote bags. By the end of the program, participants stood tall with pride – able to stitch their own clothes, create garments for loved ones, and envision dignified livelihoods. The transformation was profound: from fear to confidence, doubt to determination, helplessness to hope.



### → Emerging Leaders

Out of the 15 trainees, five have emerged as strong performers with the potential to mentor others or become Master Trainers. Building on this success, NIRDPR is planning Phase 2 advanced training for these trainees, a 10-day program that focuses on high-end garment stitching, clearing doubts, and executing job orders.

This initiative is more than skill-building—it is about restoring dignity, fostering independence, and creating pathways to resilient livelihoods for India's transgender and gender-diverse communities.

### CIRDAP and BARD Collaborative Leadership Training Programme for Strengthening Rural Cooperatives

IRDAP, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Kotbari, Cumilla, inaugurated the Leadership Development Training Programme for Strengthening Rural Cooperatives from 28 to 30 December 2025. The programme is designed to enhance the leadership capacities of rural cooperative leaders and promote sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas through effective cooperative models.



The inaugural session was graced by His Excellency Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, and Mr. Saif Uddin Ahmed, Director General of BARD. Distinguished officials, including the Director of Training at BARD, representatives from local government institutions, and resource persons with extensive experience in rural development, were present to share their knowledge and insights. The training programme was attended by 40 participants, including chairpersons and functionaries of Agricultural Cooperatives in Bangladesh mentored by BARD.

This three-day programme aims to empower local cooperative leaders by providing them with practical knowledge on leadership, management, and governance of rural cooperatives. The participants will engage in interactive sessions, field visits, and action research activities based on the renowned Comilla Approach, which emphasizes participatory rural development and community-driven initiatives.





By strengthening rural cooperatives, the programme seeks to promote inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and create sustainable livelihoods across Bangladesh. The initiative reflects the shared commitment of CIRDAP and BARD to build capacity in rural development, foster innovation in cooperative management, and support policy advocacy for the upliftment of

rural communities under the guidance of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives. Through this programme, CIRDAP continues its mission to advance integrated rural development in the Asia-Pacific region by building the skills and leadership of individuals who are pivotal in transforming rural economies and communities.



### IRD Model 16 - From Household Knowledge to Community Enterprise: Creating Livelihoods Through Value-Added Seafood Products in Myanmar

In the Ayeyarwady Region of Myanmar, Daw Han Thi, a housewife in her late fifties, has become a shining example of how rural women can transform local knowledge into sustainable livelihood opportunities. Living with her husband, her daughter's family, and her granddaughter, she had long wished to contribute more actively to the household income.

Her journey began in October 2024 when she attended a training on post-harvest management and hygienic seafood processing, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization and Kyal Sin May, a local organization. The training exposed her to a variety of value-added seafood products, including dried fish, fish paste, and fish crackers. Among these, fish crackers emerged as a viable business opportunity, as they were widely consumed in her village but were always purchased from outside.



Recognizing the potential, Daw Han Thi launched her own micro-enterprise within a month, producing fish crackers from her family's daily fish catch. Operating from her home kitchen, she sold the products during village gatherings, in local schools, and door-to-door within her community. Priced affordably, her fish crackers were quickly embraced by children and adults alike, who appreciated the freshness, taste, and the fact that the snacks were now locally produced.

The enterprise rapidly became a reliable source of additional income, generating four thousand to six thousand Myanmar Kyats per sale, significantly supplementing earnings from

selling raw fish. Encouraged by her success, her daughter joined the production, and the community supported the venture through repeat purchases and word-of-mouth promotion.

Beyond personal gain, Daw Han Thi has actively shared her skills with other women in the village, fostering knowledge transfer and promoting small-scale entrepreneurship. With plans to introduce new flavors such as pumpkin and shrimp crackers, she envisions expanding her enterprise further, creating more opportunities for community development.

Daw Han Thi's story demonstrates how integrated rural development can be achieved through technical training, local resource utilization, and community engagement. It highlights the transformative role of women as economic agents and illustrates a replicable model for promoting inclusive rural livelihoods in Myanmar and beyond.



CIRDAP, in partnership with the Rural Economic and Educational Development Society (REEDS), has officially launched the India regional edition of the International Rural Development Innovation Challenge 2026 in Hyderabad, India on 22 December 2025.

Anchored on the theme “One Innovation. Endless Change. Countless Smiles.”, the initiative

aims to identify, recognize, and promote proven rural innovations that have created measurable impact at the grassroots level and show strong potential for scale and replication across Asia and the Pacific.

The event brought together policymakers, development practitioners, academicians, and civil society leaders working in the rural development ecosystem.

The programme was honored by the presence of Honorable Minister Dr. Anasuya Seethakka for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and Honorable Member of Legislative Assembly of Bellampalli Shri G. Vinod of Government of Telangana, India, Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, attended as Chief Guest, along with Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP and Mr. M. Ravindra Vikram, Chairman of the Rural Economic and Educational Development Society.

The Innovation Challenge will be supported by an international compendium of selected innovations and an International Conference proposed to be held in Sri Lanka in June 2026. The programme concluded with an open house discussion and media interaction, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ravi K. Reddy, Secretary of the Rural Economic and Educational Development Society.

The International Rural Development Innovation Challenge 2026 invites practitioners, institutions, entrepreneurs, researchers, development professionals, and grassroots innovators to participate and showcase impactful rural innovations with the potential for wider replication.



### You Want to Partner: CIRDAP Launches the Project Facilitation Centre

Ready to make your rural development dream a reality by transforming rural ideas into real impact?

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) proudly presents the Project Facilitation Centre (PFC), a forward looking initiative designed to empower and support our network of partners across member countries!

This dynamic platform is your central hub for collaboration and innovation. We work to ensure that your transformative ideas are turned into impactful actions that drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Project Facilitation Centre strengthens your capacity by:

- Unlocking access to global funding opportunities.
- Mobilizing essential resources for your project.
- Streamlining project planning and implementation processes.
- Fostering coordination to enhance rural livelihoods.



Do not let your transformative ideas wait! Submit your project proposal, and we will facilitate it on your behalf with our Development Partners!

Operational Guideline for CIRDAP Project Facilitation Centre (PFC)

Please click the link below:

[https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/PFC-Operational-Guide\\_final.pdf](https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/PFC-Operational-Guide_final.pdf)

For more information or inquiries, contact us at: [director\\_research@cirdap.org](mailto:director_research@cirdap.org)

## Attention To The CIRDAP EXPERTS

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

Experts are invited to contribute in the following ways:

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

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

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

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

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

You are requested to send all the above information to Dr. Venkatamallu Thadaboina, Program Officer (Learning) and CIRDAP Email: [po\\_learning@cirdap.org](mailto:po_learning@cirdap.org)



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The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is an Intergovernmental, Regional, and Autonomous organization. It was established on 6 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. The Centre came into being to meet the felt needs of the developing countries at that time as an institution for promoting Integrated Rural Development in the region.

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

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

#### **The main objectives of CIRDAP are to:**

- Assist National Action;
- Promote Regional Cooperation;
- and Act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion: Integrated Rural Development (IRD) through Research, Action Research, Pilot Project, Training, and Information Dissemination. Amelioration of Rural Poverty in the Asia-Pacific region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP.

#### **The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four Areas of Concern:**

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

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

Operating through designated Contact Ministries and Link Institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes Technical Cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of Integrated Rural Development Programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **Voice of CIRDAP - Monthly E-Bulletin of CIRDAP**

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

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



**Chameli House**  
**The Headquarter of CIRDAP**



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