

VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities

Issue 23, July 2026



CIRDAP

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

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



www.cirdap.org

**CIRDAP We Library: All Books to All-At No cost**

Dear Esteemed Partners

Books are the source of knowledge and curious readers spend their resources, buy and read to satisfy their urge for knowledge. Resource poor population in rural areas are in disadvantageous position. If all the read books reach a platform in the village which facilitate the exchange of books, free access to all villagers, it would be a boon to all villagers where they get the available books free of cost in the village itself. Even the book owners get other books in exchange



without additional resources. This community led knowledge dissemination mechanism is institutionalized, would empower the rural communities with new technologies, new ideas on a sustainable basis. Extension of this concept to school books, would reduce the financial burden on poor families. While participation of co-operatives, SHG's, FPO's bring vibrancy to the system, public and private sector participation would surely add quality and scale to reach rural communities. Facilitation of exchange of books between villages, inject newness and sustain people interest for the concept.

This idea gave birth to CIRDAP We Library concept during the week we celebrated World Rural Development Day on 6th July, 26 at CIRDAP. This initiation is being pilot tested in CIRDAP now, will be expanded to villages later. The philanthropic partnership with urban readers, students, the concept is expected to magnify its impact on rural communities.

Second World Rural Development Day was celebrated in CIRDAP in august presence of Honorable Rural Development Minister of Bangladesh, Secretaries, Foreign Ministry officials, Diplomats, NGOs, Institutions, Experts and Rural Innovators. Books on Rural Development Models and Inspiring Rural Women were released, Rural Innovators were honored with awards and signature campaign was intensified.

I am very happy to share that, many CIRDAP member countries namely Myanmar, India, Fiji, Pakistan, Malaysia and Bangladesh celebrated through many impactful programs. A good beginning is made. Hope to reach more countries in the year to come.

Asia Pacific Conference on Innovations in Rural Development will be held in Sri Lanka later this year which would facilitate interface between Policy makers and Rural Innovators. This will be major step in transforming ideas into programs, ultimately benefitting rural communities.

Let the celebrations turn into action

With Warm Wishes

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General, CIRDAP





CIRDAP marked a truly historic day on 6 July 2026, celebrating its 47th Foundation Day alongside the 2nd Observance of World Rural Development Day at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The grand ceremony brought together ministers, senior government officials, ambassadors, high commissioners, development partners, academia, civil society, the private sector, and the media, all reaffirming their shared commitment to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable rural development across Asia and the Pacific.



CIRDAP to Reach 40 More Countries in Asia and the Pacific - *H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Honorable Minister, RDCD, Government of Bangladesh*

Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council and Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, delivered the Chief Guest's address. He emphasized the need to expand CIRDAP's engagement beyond its current membership and expressed the vision of reaching another 40 countries across Asia and the Pacific to strengthen knowledge sharing, partnerships, and collective action for inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. He described the occasion as a landmark moment for the organization and called for united efforts to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural communities across the region.



CIRDAP Has Doubled Its Outreach Programmes in Asia and the Pacific - *HE Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP*



HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, delivered a visionary welcome address that looked both retrospective and forward. He honored the organization's founding in 1979 while unveiling an ambitious vision for the future, sharing CIRDAP's aspiration to welcome forty non member countries into the CIRDAP family, with formal invitations already extended to each of them. His address underscored CIRDAP's continued commitment to inclusive rural development and regional partnership.



Farmer Card, Family Card and Massive Irrigation Programmes to Transform Rural Development in Bangladesh- Mr. Mohammad Showkat Rashid Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Bangladesh

Mr. Mohammad Showkat Rashid Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, and Vice Chairperson of the CIRDAP Executive Committee, emphasized the critical role of rural development in achieving inclusive economic growth and sustainable national development. He highlighted the importance of strengthening regional collaboration, sharing successful development practices, and promoting innovation to improve the livelihoods of rural communities throughout the Asia Pacific region. Also, emphasized on innovative rural development programmes introduced in Bangladesh.



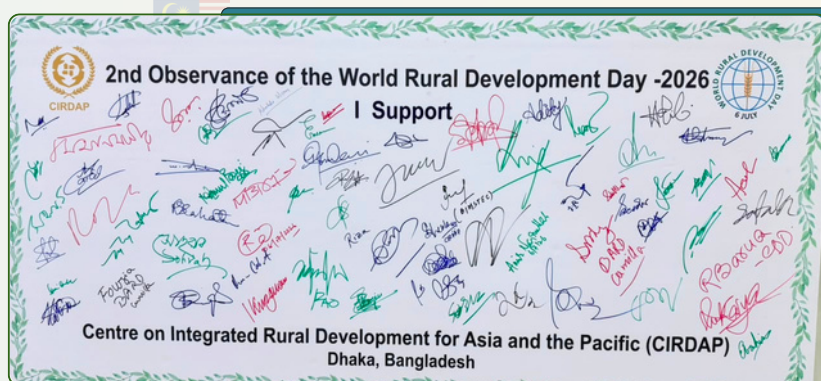
Signature Campaign



The celebration continued with the presentation of mementos and crests commemorating World Rural Development Day, followed by a special Signature Campaign in observance of the occasion. The campaign was inaugurated with the signatures of H.E. Mirza Fakhurul Islam Alamgir and H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, along with Secretaries from different ministries, distinguished Ambassadors and High

Commissioners from CIRDAP Member Countries, and delegates from FAO, BIMSTEC, and SAARC.

Initiated by CIRDAP staff, the campaign reflects CIRDAP's continued commitment to advancing rural development through inclusive partnerships, policy advocacy, and people centered initiatives, serving as a shared pledge to strengthen cooperation and promote the wellbeing of rural communities across Asia and the Pacific.





Other important activities of the celebration was the official unveiling of two flagship CIRDAP publications, Integrated Rural Development Models: 100 Best Practices and Innovations from Asia Pacific and Beyond and Unstoppable Spirits: The Rise of Rural Women in Asia and the Pacific. The event also recognized excellence in rural innovation with the announcement of the fifteen winners of the CIRDAP REEDS International Rural Innovation Challenge 2026, alongside five Special Mention recognitions for outstanding rural innovations from Bangladesh, showcasing impactful solutions and inspiring practices that contribute to sustainable rural development across the region.

**World Rural Development Day 2026:
CIRDAP Member Countries Mark the Occasion with National Celebrations**

CIRDAP Member Countries observed World Rural Development Day (WRDD) 2026 through a series of national programmes, ceremonies and initiatives, reaffirming their shared commitment to rural transformation under the global theme "Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities."

Myanmar

The Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development officially observed WRDD 2026 in Nay Pyi Taw, bringing together approximately 334 dignitaries including Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, senior government officials and representatives of international and non governmental organizations and cooperative societies. The Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development, H.E U Myo Zaw Thein, delivered a special message from the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. A tree planting initiative saw 500 participants plant 500 trees in a designated village in Nay Pyi Taw, with similar activities held simultaneously across townships nationwide. A video message from the Director General of CIRDAP was also showcased during the event.



Malaysia



Malaysia officially observed WRDD for the first time on 6 July 2026, hosting the celebration at Tun Abdul Razak Stadium in Jengka, near Maran, Pahang. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development, H.E Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to a comprehensive rural development agenda built around community innovation, rural digitalization and rural entrepreneurship development. He noted that the government would continue working to expand opportunities, strengthen economic resilience and improve infrastructure and services for rural communities, and highlighted that 6 July marks the founding date of CIRDAP, an organization that has played a central role in advancing rural development across the region.





Bangladesh

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives organized the country's first National Rural Development Day in Dhaka on 6 July 2026, under the theme "A developed and prosperous country with rich rural areas, Bangladesh comes first." The Minister, H.E Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, attended as Chief Guest, inaugurated the event and launched a commemorative postage stamp. The Bangladesh Rural Development Board arranged a colorful rally and hosted exhibition stalls showcasing six decades of its rural development milestones.



Fiji



Fiji commemorated World Rural Development Day (WRDD) 2026 as part of a national programme led by Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, alongside the commissioning of the newly constructed Nadarivatu Government Station, refurbished staff quarters, and the launch of the 2026 Government Roadshow. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister underscored the vital contribution of rural communities to Fiji's economic and social development and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to inclusive rural transformation. Reflecting the global WRDD 2026 theme, "Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities," he emphasized that empowering rural communities through improved infrastructure, accessible public services, knowledge, market opportunities, and financial support is essential for sustainable economic growth and achieving Fiji's Vision 2050. The observance also highlighted the Government's continued efforts to decentralize services, strengthen community resilience, and ensure that rural and maritime communities remain at the center of the country's national development agenda.

India

To mark WRDD 2026, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj commenced an international study tour on Adaptive Social Protection for 27 delegates from the National Cash Transfer Office under Nigeria's Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. Led by Dr. Abdulkarim Abubakar Ozi, the programme included learning and experience sharing sessions along with field visits to social protection initiatives, offering delegates practical insight into India's approach to adaptive and inclusive social protection systems, and building on the spirit of South to South cooperation.



Pakistan

The Chief Minister of Sindh province, Mr. Syed Murad Ali Shah, issued a message on the occasion of World Rural Development Day, stating that investing in rural areas is equivalent to investing in a secure and sustainable future for the nation. He highlighted the vital role of farmers and rural communities in ensuring economic growth and food security, noting that the Sindh government continues to implement initiatives aimed at reducing rural poverty, generating employment and promoting agricultural development.



Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the world, and it is time to bring its power to our rural communities.

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) invite you to a premier collaborative international online training programme.

☀ Programme Highlights:

Artificial Intelligence is no longer just for tech hubs. This intensive three day programme focuses on practical, ethical, and sustainable AI deployment specifically tailored for rural ecosystems and low connectivity environments.

- Dates: 18 to 20 August 2026
- Mode: Online via Zoom
- Schedule: 2 sessions per day (90 minutes each, total 3 hours per day)
- Registration Deadline: 10 August 2026, Free (Registration required)

Key Themes Covered

- Foundations of AI and global policy trends
- Rural data readiness and predictive planning
- AI in agriculture, climate, healthcare, and education
- Deployment architectures for low connectivity environments
- Responsible AI, ethical governance, and community engagement
- Actionable capstone exercise for field level execution

👥 Who Should Participate:

This programme is designed for policymakers and government officials engaged in rural development planning, development practitioners and non-governmental organizations working at grassroots level, academics and researchers focusing on rural innovation, and technology innovators and entrepreneurs developing solutions for underserved communities.

Registration Link:

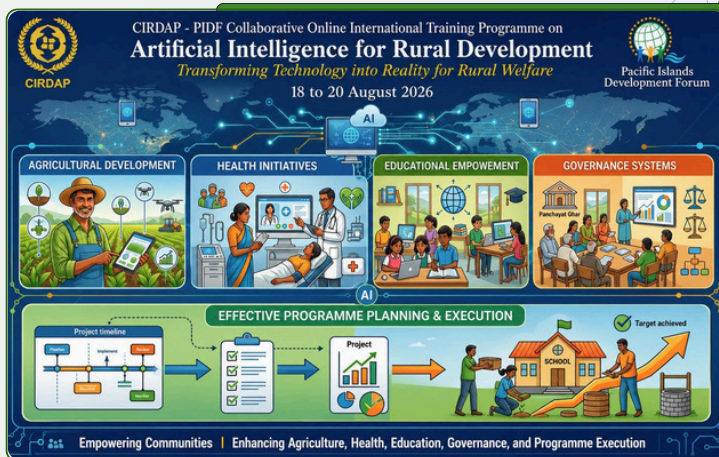
<https://forms.gle/dXyeLF5PZTKQxnog8>

For details please find the link of brochure:

https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/CIRDAP_AI_Rural_Development_Brochure.pdf

For any queries contact Dr Venkatamallu Thadaboina, Programme Officer Learning, CIRDAP

Email: po_learning@cirdap.org, WhatsApp: +91 9866681774





CIRDAP is pleased to announce the 15 winners of the CIRDAP REEDS International Rural Development Innovation Challenge 2026, along with 5 Special Mention recognitions for outstanding rural innovations from Bangladesh. A total of 187 submissions from 13 countries were received, reflecting strong regional commitment to advancing rural development innovation.

All entries were rigorously reviewed by an International Jury Committee through a fair and transparent evaluation process.

Based on their recommendations, CIRDAP proudly presents the Winners of the Innovation Challenge as follows:

Regional Awardees (5) - receiving US\$ 500 Cash Awards plus a Certificate of Recognition

Rank	Innovation	Country	Proposer's Name
1st	From Land Consolidation to Local Branding through Capacity Building: The Narrative of a Rural Extension Facilitator in Kermanshah, Iran	IR Iran	Mr. Mozhdeh Ketabi
2nd	CARBODIT: A Community-Based Digital Carbon Finance Model for Rural Empowerment	Bangladesh	Mr. Saifullah Manwar and Team
3rd	GramiGO – Smart Rural Delivery & Local Commerce Network	India	Mr. Charan Bhogavalli
4th	PryoFuel Rural	Malaysia	Dr Thinakaran Narayanan
5th	Walking Cooler", A Low Cost, Zero Energy Mobile Cold Storage Solution for Smallholder Farmers	Sri Lanka	Ms. M. Dasuni Maheshika

National Level Awardees (10) - receiving a Certificate of Appreciation

Rank	Innovation	Country	Proposer's Name
1st	Digital Farmer 4.0 Platform: Real-time Forecasting and Market Connectivity for Smallholder Farmers in Vietnam	Vietnam	Mr. Khuất Duy Học
2nd	CHINMAYA-Rural Action Network (C-RAN)	India	Dr. Bindu MP
3rd	ECOLERY: A Replicable Women-Led Rural Green Economy Model	Bangladesh	Ms. Nafesa Anzum Helaly,
4th	AgriConnect KOPIA: A Low-Cost ICT Advisory and Feedback Model	Pakistan	Dr. Umair Nawaz
5th	Eco_Protek: A Rural Microbial Innovation Driving Circular Agriculture, Food Security, and Environmental Resilience	Philippines	Mr. Jeremy M. Balisacan
6th	Digital Agri-Connect Nepal (DAC-Nepal): A Low-Cost Digital Innovation for Inclusive, Climate-Smart and Market-Linked Rural Livelihoods.	Nepal	Dr. Yogendra Kumar Karki





7th	Community-Based Fisheries Lifestyle Tourism Concept	Thailand	Ms. Chanatip Boonchalee
8th	The Rural Resilience Academy (TRRA) Strategic Rural Innovation for Myanmar's "Generation on Hold"	Myanmar	Mr. Aung Htet Oo
9th	DOI Gampang: Digital Transformation for Rural Economy	Indonesia	Mr. Ary Andreas Toelle
10th	Forest to Foreign Fork: Sustainable Expansion of Wild Red Mushroom for Rural Resilience	Lao PDR	Dr. Ouanh Phomvisith

All 15 awardees will be invited to participate in an international conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, planned for November 2026, where they will showcase their innovative solutions for sustainable rural development and will have interface meeting with representative of CIRDAP Member Countries. Congratulations to all the winners for their remarkable contributions toward building resilient, innovative, and prosperous rural communities.

Among the winners, following four outstanding innovations from Bangladesh received special recognition on the occasion of CIRDAP's Foundation Day celebrated at Dhaka.



CARBODIT by Mr Saifullah Manwar and Team, a community based digital carbon finance model empowering smallholder farmers.



ECOLERY by Ms Nafesa Anzum Helaly, a women led edible cutlery enterprise promoting a green rural economy.



Scrap Venture by Mr Motaleb Hossain Emon and Team, a digital circular economy platform creating rural livelihoods through waste management.



SilentGuard Rural by Protik Das of the University of Global Village, Barishal, an AI powered early warning system to help prevent village collapse.



CIRDAP is pleased to share that H. E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, delivered the keynote address at the 50th Session of the KhetiValah Dialogues Global Series, held on 17 July 2026.

The milestone session, organised in collaboration with CIRDAP as the Knowledge Partner, focused on the theme:

Shaping the Future of Rural Development: Innovation, Partnerships, and Sustainable Agriculture (A CIRDAP Perspective for the Asia Pacific)

During his address, Dr. Shekara highlighted the importance of innovation, strategic partnerships, and sustainable agricultural practices in accelerating rural transformation across the Asia Pacific region. He also reaffirmed CIRDAP's commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable rural development through regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and collaborative action. The dialogue brought together experts, policymakers, development practitioners, and stakeholders to exchange ideas and strengthen partnerships for building resilient rural communities and advancing sustainable development across the region.

CIRDAP sincerely appreciates the KhetiValah Mission for organising this landmark 50th session and looks forward to continued collaboration in advancing rural development initiatives across Asia and the Pacific.



CIRDAP Nominates Five Officers for Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management at NIRDPR, India, Sponsored by Government of India

CIRDAP has nominated five officers from its Member Countries for a fully sponsored academic opportunity extended by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, India. The officers have been selected for the Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management, Batch 24, for the academic year 2026–27.



Ms. Luvu Tadulala
Fiji



Mr. Narayan Chandra Sarkar
Bangladesh



Ms. Aye Hsu Mon
Myanmar

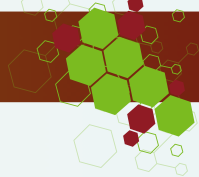


Mr. Morteza Abbasi
IR Iran



Ms. Than Than Soe
Myanmar

This one year residential diploma programme is designed for in service professionals working in agriculture, rural development, and allied sectors across CIRDAP Member Countries. This scheduled programme is jointly conducted by CIRDAP and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and is fully funded by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Funding covers all expenses, including air travel reimbursement as per Government of India norms.



The nominated candidates are as follows:

1. Ms. Luvu Tadulala, Assistant District Officer, Nadi, Fiji
2. Mr. Narayan Chandra Sarkar, Upazila Rural Development Officer, Bangladesh Rural Development Board, Bangladesh
3. Ms. Aye Hsu Mon, Assistant Director (Technical), Department of Rural Development (DRD), Myanmar
4. Mr. Morteza Abbasi, Legal Expert, Islamic Republic of Iran
5. Ms. Than Than Soe, Staff Officer, Myanmar

This nomination reflects CIRDAP's continued commitment to strengthening the capacity of rural development professionals across the region through collaborative academic partnerships with leading institutions.

CIRDAP Unveils Publication on Integrated Rural Development Models: 100 Best Practices and Innovations from Asia Pacific and Beyond

As part of the 47th Foundation Day and the second observance of World Rural Development Day, CIRDAP launched its latest flagship publication, "Integrated Rural Development Models: 100 Best Practices and Innovations from Asia Pacific and Beyond," at a ceremony held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



The book was officially released by the Honorable Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who attended the event as Chief Guest, in the presence of H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, along with senior government officials, ambassadors, development partners and distinguished guests.



This remarkable volume brings together 100 inspiring integrated rural development models from 22 countries, highlighting innovative and impactful practices that are transforming rural communities through sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, digital innovation, community empowerment and inclusive development. The publication is edited by Dr. P. Chandra Shekara and authored by Ms. Tahsina Tabassum Sajuti.

More than a collection of success stories, the book serves as a practical knowledge resource for policymakers, administrators, researchers, academicians, rural development practitioners and development partners. It reflects the Centre's commitment to promoting innovation, fostering collaboration and advancing sustainable rural development across the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

The full publication may be accessed here:

<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/100-IRD-Model-Book.pdf>



CIRDAP and the Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), Islamic Republic of Iran, continue to make steady progress in implementing the project Improving Rural Women's Sustainable Livelihood through Empowerment in the Sericulture Value Chain. The initiative aims to strengthen the sustainable livelihoods of rural women by enhancing their participation in the sericulture value chain through capacity building, value chain development, and improved market opportunities. During the past two months, the research team successfully completed field missions across the three project provinces of Guilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan along the Caspian Sea. Despite challenging circumstances, all planned field activities were carried out successfully, marking an important milestone in project implementation.



The study is expected to provide evidence based recommendations to strengthen rural women's livelihoods by expanding their participation in the sericulture value chain. The findings will also support informed policymaking and contribute to sustainable and inclusive rural development in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Book Launch - Unstoppable Spirits: The Rise of Rural Women in Asia and the Pacific



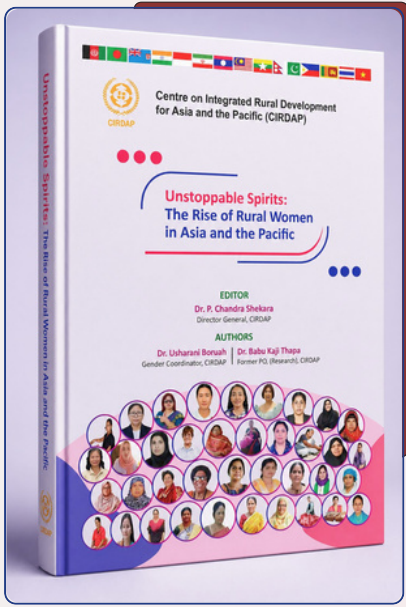
CIRDAP launched its latest publication, Unstoppable Spirits: The Rise of Rural Women in Asia and the Pacific, during the celebration of its 47th Foundation Day and the 2nd observance of World Rural Development Day in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

highlights successful initiatives in agriculture, livestock, food processing, dairy farming, beekeeping, homestay, marketing, and social leadership while recognizing the significant contribution of rural women to livelihoods, food security, education, environmental conservation, and community development. This book is edited by Dr. P. Chandra Shekara and authored by Dr. Usharani Boruah and Dr. Babu Kaji Thapa.

This publication stands as a tribute to the extraordinary contributions of rural women and serves as an inspiration for policymakers, researchers, development practitioners, and communities across Asia and the Pacific.

Read the full publication here: <https://cirdap.org/Book.pdf>

The publication celebrates the inspiring stories of rural women from CIRDAP Member Countries whose dedication, innovation, and leadership have transformed their communities. It



For more than three decades, Sri Lanka's Department of Samurdhi Development, under the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment, has stood as one of South Asia's most enduring poverty-alleviation and community-empowerment institutions. Today, with over 1.7 million families reached, more than 1,100 community-based banks in operation, and 100+ communities engaged across the country, Samurdhi offers CIRDAP member countries a compelling case study in integrated rural development (IRD) at national scale.



A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Poverty

What distinguishes Samurdhi from single-sector welfare schemes is its integration of financial, social, and human capital interventions under one institutional umbrella. The programme's mission speaks directly to the IRD philosophy that CIRDAP has long championed: empowering disadvantaged populations across economic, social, political, physical, psychological, legal, and environmental dimensions simultaneously, while reducing regional disparities through coordinated action among government departments, community organisations, microfinance institutions, and private-sector partners.

This mirrors a core tenet of integrated rural development: that lasting poverty reduction cannot be achieved through isolated interventions, but requires simultaneous progress across livelihoods, finance, social protection, and local institution-building.

Four Pillars Working in Concert

Community-Based Microfinance. Samurdhi's network of community-based banks and banking societies extends credit and savings services to low-income households who would otherwise remain outside the formal financial system — a foundational IRD strategy for unlocking rural entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship Development. Rather than one-off cash transfers, the programme invests in building the skills, knowledge, and confidence of family members from low-income households, translating into small enterprises ranging from plastic recycling to the manufacture of export-grade cricket bats and traditional carved masks now reaching markets in the Maldives, Dubai, Kuwait, and the United States.

Community-Based Organisations. Grassroots organisations serve as the delivery mechanism for collective action, channelling both resources and decision-making power to the community level — reflecting IRD's emphasis on participatory, bottom-up institution-building rather than top-down service delivery.

Social Development and Protection. Complementary programmes address health, social welfare, and community wellbeing, recognizing that economic empowerment alone cannot sustain development gains without parallel social safety nets.

Lessons for the Region



Samurdhi's scale and longevity offer several takeaways relevant to CIRDAP's member countries:

- **Institutional continuity matters.** Three decades of sustained investment have allowed the programme to evolve from emergency relief into a diversified development ecosystem.
- **Vertical integration of finance and enterprise** — pairing microfinance with entrepreneurship training — helps beneficiaries move from dependency toward self-sufficiency.
- **Digitisation of service delivery**, through platforms for client management, human resources, and public information, is increasingly central to programme efficiency and transparency at national scale.
- **Local-to-global market linkages**, as seen in Samurdhi-supported exporters, demonstrate that rural enterprise development can extend well beyond domestic markets when paired with the right training and networks.

As CIRDAP continues to document and disseminate best practices in integrated rural development across Asia and the Pacific, Sri Lanka's Samurdhi programme stands as an instructive example of how national poverty-alleviation architecture can embody the region's shared IRD principles: multi-sectoral coordination, community ownership, and a long-term institutional commitment to inclusive growth.





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.

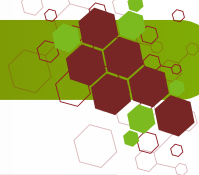
Within these Areas of Concern, the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. Health, Education and Nutrition); Employment generation through Microcredit support, Infrastructure Development and Local resource mobilisation;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



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



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CIRDAP Member Countries



Chameli House The Headquarter of CIRDAP



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