

# VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities

Issue 22, June 2026



**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](http://www.cirdap.org)



## CIRDAP welcomes World Rural Development Day

Dear Partners

United Nations took a historic decision to declare 6<sup>th</sup> July as World Rural Development Day. The declaration strengthens the global commitment for welfare of Rural Communities through sustainable means. The day will be celebrated by all countries every year on 6<sup>th</sup> July. It is a matter of pride to CIRDAP as the day is foundation day of CIRDAP. The declaration was made in recognition of contribution made by CIRDAP for regional development. It is an opportunity for CIRDAP and all the stake holders of Rural Development to take note of emerging challenges in Rural Development and refine the approaches to achieve the goals.



First year celebration at CIRDAP started on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 itself with a yearlong signature campaign, supported by Diplomats and Civil Societies, continued with Publication of books, organizing training programmes, initiating research projects, Innovation challenge, expanding the network of CIRDAP experts, partner institutions, intensifying their involvement in CIRDAP activities to name a few. Encouraging reciprocal responses were received from Fiji, India and Myanmar in the form of dedicating infrastructure in rural areas, sensitization on rural development programs in remote villages and recognizing, rewarding the contribution of individuals and organizations at national level. Similar activities have been continuing in 2026 vigorously. Mega activities are planned by Government of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. These activities are not merely symbolic but also impactful. CIRDAP is also planning for a huge congregation of Diplomats and political leadership this year to enlist their support for the cause of Rural Communities. The Rural Development innovation challenge launched by CIRDAP provided several innovative ideas and practices which assure better life to rural communities in less time and cost. Hope the ideas benefit the member countries.

Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and happy Rural communities is the theme for this year World Rural Development Day celebrations. Active participation of women in development, Attracting and retaining youth in villages by providing Urban amenities in rural areas, organizing farmers into cooperatives, producers companies to take control of entire Agri food systems, generating green jobs in villages to address climate change issues, ensuring digital literacy to take maximum benefit of digital revolution, telemedicine to ensure health for all, strengthening quality education among rural children, intensifying rural infrastructure are some of the key areas always remained as the core of CIRDAP thinking and actions to transform the theme into reality.

CIRDAP appeals to all stakeholders in Rural Development to seize this celebration as an opportunity to rededicate themselves to the cause of Rural Communities by only intensifying their efforts towards achieving their goals

**Wish you all happy world Rural Development Day**



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CIRDAP held a consultative meeting with the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) on 2nd June 2026, a valued MoU partner, to strengthen regional collaboration and explore new avenues of joint action for rural development across Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting was graced by PIDF Secretary General Ms. Arpana Pratap, who shared an overview of PIDF and its work across the Pacific Island nations. HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, provided a comprehensive briefing on CIRDAP's mandate, initiatives, and ongoing programmes. Other officials from CIRDAP were also present in the meeting.



Discussions covered a broad range of areas of mutual interest, including potential collaboration on rural development programmes, identification of shared development priorities, and an overview of major activities undertaken by both organizations. The meeting also featured briefings on proposed projects, their implementation frameworks, and the scope for collaborative initiatives under the existing MoU.

A key focus of the meeting was expanding CIRDAP membership among Pacific Island countries, with PIDF playing a central facilitative role in bringing more nations into the CIRDAP family. This step is seen as vital to deepening regional solidarity and ensuring inclusive rural development across the Asia Pacific.

### CIRDAP Signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Co-operative and Management, Thanlyin, Myanmar



The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the University of Co-operative and Management, Thanlyin (UCMT), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 25 June 2026 to strengthen collaboration in the areas of research, capacity building, knowledge sharing, project implementation, and community development.

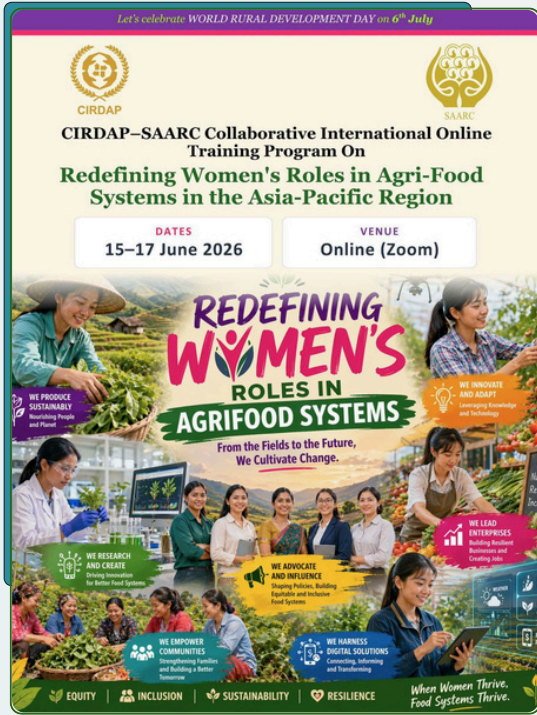
The MoU reflects a shared commitment to enhancing institutional capacities and human resource competencies through joint research initiatives, training programmes, seminars, publications, and other collaborative activities that contribute to sustainable rural and community development across the region.



The MoU was signed on behalf of CIRDAP by Mr. FAM Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration, and on behalf of UCMT by Dr. Yi Yi Win, Rector of the University of Co-operative and Management, Thanlyin.

The signing ceremony was honoured by the presence of HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP and Dr. Yi Yi Win, Rector, UCMT, along with representatives from both organisations.

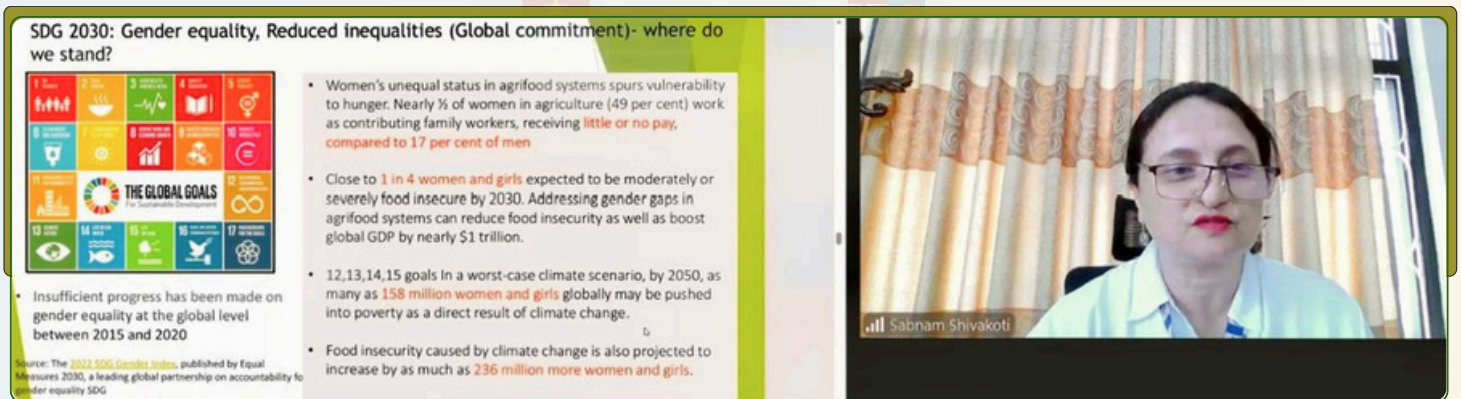
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CIRDAP, in collaboration with SAARC, proudly launched a Three-day Online International Training Programme on "Redefining Women's Roles in Agri-food Systems of Asia-Pacific Region" on 15 June 2026.

The program was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, CIRDAP, with Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director of SAARC Secretariat, Katmandu, Nepal

167 participants from 20 countries, including policymakers, researchers, academicians, and development practitioners, united in their commitment to advancing gender equity in agriculture across the Asia-Pacific region.



Over three days, participants are engaging in rich dialogue and knowledge exchange on:

- ✓ Women's roles across agri-food value chains
- ✓ Gender gaps in access to land, finance, technology, and markets
- ✓ Gender responsive policy frameworks and legal reforms
- ✓ Women's entrepreneurship and inclusive value chains
- ✓ Climate resilience, indigenous knowledge, and digital agriculture
- ✓ Women's leadership, cooperative participation, and social transformation

This programme reflects CIRDAP's enduring commitment to fostering inclusive rural development where women are not just participants, but leaders and change makers in the agri-food systems of Asia and the Pacific.



The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in rural development, agricultural finance, and financial inclusion across the Asia and Pacific region.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at CIRDAP Headquarters and featured a presentation by CIRDAP, remarks by Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General of APRACA, formal signing and exchange of the MoU documents, and remarks by HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP.



Through this partnership, CIRDAP and APRACA will work together on financial inclusion, capacity building, rural poverty reduction, climate resilient agriculture, research and policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strengthening rural institutions and cooperatives.

The collaboration aims to enhance sustainable livelihoods, promote innovation, and improve the wellbeing of rural communities across the region.

## DG CIRDAP Courtesy Meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal

DG CIRDAP H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Nepal on 10 June 2026.

The meeting was held in a spirit of mutual cooperation, focusing on strengthening regional collaboration in rural development and sustainable agriculture. The meeting was also graced by Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Chief Coordinator of Agricultural Extension Platform for South Asia (AEPASA).



As a valued Member State of CIRDAP, Nepal continues to play an important role in advancing integrated rural development initiatives across the region. The engagement reflects CIRDAP's continued commitment to fostering strong partnerships with member governments to improve rural livelihoods and promote sustainable development.

CIRDAP highly values its partnership with Nepal and looks forward to enhancing future joint initiatives for the benefit of rural communities.



As the world marks the International Year of Women Farmers, CIRDAP co-organised the 59th session of the CIRDAP Knowledge Series webinar, alongside the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) together with Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (ARINEENA), Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) on 23 June 2026, bringing voices from across the Asia Pacific and beyond to one table.

The dialogue centred on what matters most right now:

- How women are leading climate change adaptation and resilience building.
- How climate smart and nature positive practices are reshaping agriculture.
- How risk management and ecosystem based approaches are securing livelihoods.

**Session Theme: Women Farmers Leading Climate-Resilient Farming**  
Celebrating International Year of Women Farmers 2026

**The webinar will focus on:**

- Women's leadership in climate change adaptation and resilience-building
- Climate-smart and nature-positive agricultural practices
- Risk management, diversification, and ecosystem-based approaches

**Speakers:**

- Tomoko (Toko) Kato**: Senior Food Security and Nutrition Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Ayşe Özge Ülker**: Environmental scientist and researcher, Soil, Fertilizer and Water Resources Central Research Institute, Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Rama Alzher**: Gender Specialist, FAO Iraq
- Anna Hovhannisyan**: Co-founder, Corner Business Platform Armenia
- V. Geethalakshmi**: Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University India
- Pham Thi Hanh Tho**: Project Manager, Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development (CASRAD), Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS)

**23 June, 2026**  
3:00 PM (Bangkok Time) [Register Now](#)

**Women Farmers Game-changers in climate-resilient food systems**  
Toko Kato, ADB Webinar 2026

**Women Farmers Leading Climate-Resilient Farming**  
Ayşe Özge Ülker  
Soil, Fertilizer and Water Resources Central Research Institute  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
23.06.2026

**Promoting A Women-led Cooperative Integrating Agriculture and Tourism in Phu Luong, Thai Nguyen, Vietnam**  
Presented by: Pham Thi Hanh Tho, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS)  
Hanoi, June, 2026

**Role of Institutions & Policy**  
Strong institutions and enabling policies are the foundation for women-led climate resilience and nature-positive agriculture.

**Challenges Facing Women in Agriculture**  
Access to resources, Financial exclusion, Inequalities, Double burden.

H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, delivered the welcome remarks and emphasized the importance of empowering women farmers as key agents of change for rural transformation and food security. Distinguished experts and stakeholders from CIRDAP Member Countries added depth and diversity to the conversation.

CIRDAP extends its sincere appreciation to all partner organizations, speakers, and participants for contributing to this meaningful global dialogue.

Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Director Research of CIRDPAP, participated in the South Asia Regional Capacity Sharing Needs Assessment Workshop, held on 23 and 24 June 2026 at the IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) in Varanasi, India.

Organised by CGIAR under its Capacity Sharing Accelerator (CapSha) initiative, the workshop brought together leaders from National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES), CGIAR centres, and regional partner organisations from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.



The two day consultation aimed to co develop the building blocks of a South Asia CapSha regional framework and its 2026 to 2030 strategy and workplan, with a focus on South South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) across the region.



Discussions centred on mapping capacity gaps and existing strengths at individual, institutional, and system levels, and on identifying structured pathways for regional knowledge sharing. Using rice and cereal systems as the strategic entry point, the workshop adopted a comprehensive food systems approach, encompassing value chains, post harvest management, policy frameworks, and nutrition outcomes.

The workshop outcomes will be synthesised into a set of actionable policy recommendations and a Conference Position Paper, to be presented at the International Dryland Conference in New Delhi during 10 to 12 September 2026.

CIRDPAP remains committed to advancing agricultural research capacity, regional cooperation, and sustainable rural development across Asia and the Pacific.

This partnership marks an important step towards advancing knowledge exchange, strengthening institutional cooperation, and promoting innovative solutions for rural development in Asia and the Pacific.

CIRDAP is deeply honoured to share that, Director General, H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, has been conferred the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Conference on Women and Youth for Transforming Agribusiness Ecosystems, held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The conference was jointly organised by the Society for Community Mobilization for Sustainable Development (MOBILIZATION), India, and Nepal Farmers Advisory Council Pvt. Ltd. (NFAC), Nepal. The conference was attended by more than 200 experts from different parts of globe.



The conference spotlighted the immense potential of women and youth as drivers of this transformation, through agripreneurship, digital agriculture, agro processing, and strengthened market linkages. Empowering the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs is seen as essential to building more resilient, productive, and sustainable food systems across the region.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara's outstanding contributions to rural development, agricultural transformation, agribusiness promotion, and regional cooperation across Asia and the Pacific. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment continue to inspire efforts toward building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable rural communities.

CIRDAP extends its heartfelt congratulations to H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara on his well-deserved recognition and remains committed to advancing integrated rural development across Asia and the Pacific the region.



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:

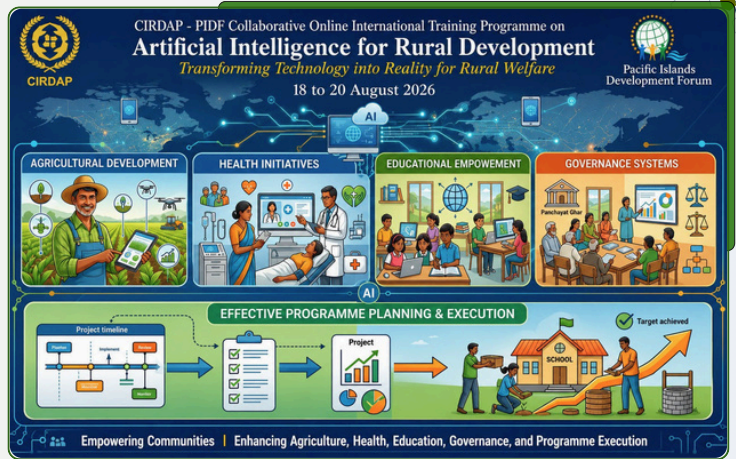
<https://forms.gle/dXyeLF5PZTKQxnoq8>

For details please find the link of brochure:

[https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/CIRDAP\\_AI\\_Rural\\_Development\\_Brochure.pdf](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](mailto:po_learning@cirdap.org), WhatsApp: +91 9866681774





The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute HARTI, has released a new policy brief titled “Women’s Economic Empowerment through Community Driven Livelihoods Lessons from Sri Lanka.”

The policy brief highlights the outcomes and lessons from a rural livelihood project implemented in the Nuwara Eliya District of Sri Lanka, focusing on strengthening women led enterprises through community driven approaches.

The initiative supported women entrepreneurs with technical training, financial assistance, market linkage development, cooperative participation, and nutrition sensitive interventions. Following one year of implementation, participating households experienced improved income, enhanced entrepreneurial capacity, greater food security, and notable progress in poverty reduction.

💡 The Nuwara Eliya experience offers a replicable, evidence based framework for scaling women's economic empowerment across the Asia Pacific region.

📖 Read the full policy brief here:  
<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Policy-Brief-Womens-Economic-Empowerment-through-Community%E2%80%93Driven-Livelihoods-Lessons-from-Sri-Lanka.pdf>

## DG CIRDAP Visits Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal

H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, had a meeting with Dr. Jaya Krishna Shrestha, Acting Executive Director of the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Nepal. The discussion focused on strengthening cooperation and advancing shared priorities in rural development and capacity building.



Key points covered several important areas of mutual interest including:



- Ongoing and upcoming programs of CIRDAP and LDTA
- Potential collaborative activities between the two institutions
- Plans for the upcoming celebration of World Rural Development Day
- Dissemination of CIRDAP publications
- The upcoming Technical Committee meeting scheduled to be held in Nepal

The meeting reaffirmed the strong partnership between CIRDAP and LDTA, Nepal, and reiterated the shared commitment of both institutions toward promoting integrated rural development across the Asia Pacific region.



CIRDAP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), India, releases its latest Policy Brief — Action Lab for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youth in Mainstream Livelihoods in India (June 2026).

Grounded in the lived realities of rural transgender and gender-variant youth, this Action Lab combines demographic mapping, community-anchored service camps, and enterprise-based livelihood pilots across Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, India.

**Key Highlights:**

- ✓ 338 individuals reached across 7 districts
- ✓ 56 trained in enterprise-based livelihoods
- ✓ 4 livelihood models piloted across 2 states — coconut-shell craft, apparel stitching, mushroom cultivation, and spice processing

From the COCOFRIENDS eco-craft enterprise in Pollachi to apparel training with USHA International in Baruipur, the Action Lab demonstrates that dignified, market-linked livelihoods are both achievable and scalable for marginalised communities.

This brief offers evidence-based insights and actionable recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and development partners committed to inclusive rural economies.

Read the full brief here: [https://cirdap.org/Policy\\_Brief\\_Action\\_Lab\\_Transgender\\_Inclusion](https://cirdap.org/Policy_Brief_Action_Lab_Transgender_Inclusion)

**Strategic Partnership Visit: DG CIRDAP Meeting with Chairman, Nepal Farmers Advisory Council (NFAC), Nepal**



DG CIRDAP, H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, met with Dr. Yogendra Kumar Karki, Chairman of the Nepal Farmers Advisory Council (NFAC), at the NFAC headquarters in Kathmandu, on 08 June, 2026. The visit reinforced the strong institutional partnership between CIRDAP and NFAC, a valued MoU partner, and opened new avenues for collaborative rural development action in Nepal. Discussions centred on joint partnership programmes planned for 2026 in Nepal, including the

active involvement of additional partner institutions in Nepal based initiatives. Both organisations are also jointly organising an online training programme in June 2026, reflecting their shared commitment to capacity building and knowledge exchange across the region.

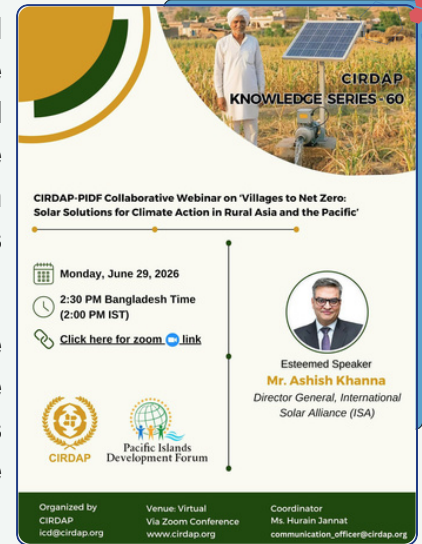


Under the CIRDAP Knowledge Series 2026, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), Fiji, organized a webinar titled Village to Net Zero: Solar Solutions for Climate Action in Rural Asia and the Pacific. The session highlighted the transformative role of solar energy in advancing climate action, rural development, and sustainable livelihoods across the region.

The webinar featured Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General of the International Solar Alliance, as the keynote speaker. He shared valuable insights on how solar technologies can help rural communities address energy poverty, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and contribute to national and global net zero ambitions.

As countries across Asia and the Pacific work toward achieving their climate commitments, the discussion emphasized the importance of decentralized renewable energy solutions in rural areas. Solar energy was highlighted as a practical and affordable option for powering homes, schools, health facilities, irrigation systems, rural enterprises, and clean cooking initiatives. Participants also explored how solar innovation can generate economic opportunities, enhance energy access, and support inclusive and sustainable rural development.

The session was chaired by Dr. P Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, and brought together policymakers, development practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders from CIRDAP Member Countries. The interactive discussions underscored the need for stronger regional collaboration and knowledge sharing to accelerate the adoption of solar solutions and build resilient rural communities. The webinar is available on the CIRDAP YouTube Channel for wider access.



## Applications Open for the CIRDAP-SIET, India, Partial Scholarship Programme 2026



The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), in collaboration with Shobhit Institute of Engineering and Technology (SIET), India, invites applications from eligible candidates of CIRDAP Member Countries for the CIRDAP SIET Partial Scholarship Programme 2026.

The scholarship programme offers opportunities to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, and Agri Business Management at SIET, India.

### Programmes Offered:

- \*B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture
- \*B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology, and Agricultural Technology
- \*M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology, and Agricultural Technology
- \*MBA in Agri Business Management

### Important Dates:

- \* **Application Deadline:** 06 July 2026
- \* **Online Interview:** 09 July 2026
- \* **Scholarship Results:** 13 July 2026
- \* **Reporting to Campus:** 17 August 2026
- \* **Academic Session Begins:** 20 August 2026

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply online and take advantage of this opportunity to pursue quality higher education in India.

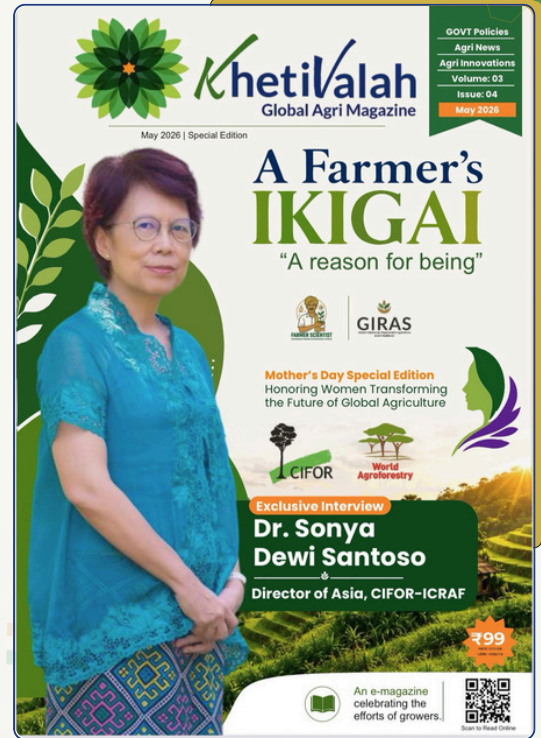
**Application Link:** [Click Here](#)



CIRDAP has been proudly spotlighted in the May 2026 Edition of KhetiValah Global Agri E-Magazine, one of the leading voices in global agriculture and rural development!

This special issue highlights CIRDAP’s impactful work across the Asia-Pacific region (pages 52–57), along with the “Rural Heartbeat” cover feature on our Honourable Director General, HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara. His visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to rural transformation continue to inspire progress and collaboration.

The feature showcases CIRDAP’s recent activities, innovative rural development initiatives, key regional updates, and the “Integrated Rural Development Models Series in the Asia-Pacific Region”—reflecting our ongoing dedication to knowledge sharing and regional learning.

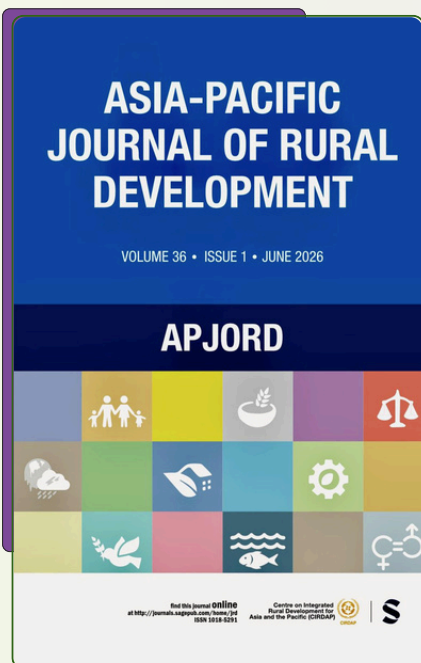


Explore the full edition and discover stories shaping the future of agriculture and rural development.

👉 Click the link below to read the full magazine!

<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/KhetiValah-Magazine-May2026.pdf>

## Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), Volume 36, Issue 1, June 2026, Released



CIRDAP is pleased to announce the release of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), Volume 36, Issue 1, June 2026.

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/jrda/36/1>



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.

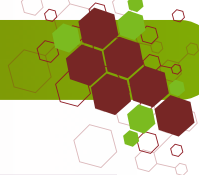
Operating through designated Contact Ministries and Link Institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes Technical Cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of Integrated Rural Development Programmes in the 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](mailto:po_learning@cirdap.org)



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**Chameli House  
The Headquarter of CIRDAP**



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