

47th Anniversary of CIRDAP Foundation Day and the 2nd World Rural Development Day

Date and Time: 6 July, 2026, 9:00am-11:00 am

CIRDAP Auditorium, Chameli House.

Talking points for Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Honble LGRD Minister

Distinguished Guests, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and good morning.

It is a great honor to welcome you to historic Chameli House to celebrate the 47th Anniversary of CIRDAP Foundation Day and the 2nd World Rural Development Day. This year is unique as we are joined for the first time by Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Asia-Pacific nations.

Distinguished Guests,

World Rural Development Day, observed on 6 July, marks the founding of CIRDAP in 1979 by Bangladesh, fellow regional nations, and the FAO. Bangladesh takes immense pride in pioneering the UN resolution for this global observance and currently serving as Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council.

Over nearly five decades, CIRDAP has driven regional solidarity, poverty reduction, and capacity building in the member countries. Its achievements include 215 research programs, 350 capacity-building initiatives, and training for over 8,000 government officials. Through digital networks and publications,

it now reaches 120,000 stakeholders, bridging the gap between policy and practice.

Today, rural communities face modern challenges like climate change, digital transformation, food security, and youth unemployment. CIRDAAP is evolving to lead efforts in climate-smart agriculture and rural entrepreneurship. It is also expanding regional influence by inviting 40 additional Asia-Pacific nations to join and partnering with the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF).

Respected presence,

As host country, Bangladesh views supporting CIRDAAP as both a responsibility and an honour. Since independence, Bangladesh has become a global model for rural transformation. Our government, which assumed office in February 2026, places rural development at the centre of its agenda. In conformity with the election manifesto of our party the government of Bangladesh has taken series of programmes which will benefit rural people as a whole. Some of these key programmes are:

Agricultural Support: Full debt waivers for smallholder farmers with outstanding agricultural loans up to Tk 10,000, benefiting over 1.2 million farmers.

Village Development Hubs: Utilizing institutions like Ansar-VDP to transform villages into centers of governance, infrastructure, and public services.

Water Management: A nationwide canal excavation program to restore 20,000 kilometers of waterways over five years, boosting irrigation and agricultural productivity.

Card-Based Social Support: The Family Card Programme provides monthly financial assistance to low-income, women-led households. The Farmer Card (Krishak Card) offers streamlined access to subsidized inputs, loans, insurance, and markets. True prosperity is impossible if cities advance while villages lag behind.

Dear Friends,

Development must be inclusive, equitable, and rural-centered. Our government has given priority to education and health sector which will strengthen the capacity of the rural communities. Under the leadership of the honourable Prime Minister Mr. Tareque Rahman the government is determined to bring qualitative changes in the rural communities as well as the livelihoods of people in the rural areas.

I congratulate CIRDAP on its 47th year of service and celebrate the global recognition of World Rural Development Day. Let us renew our commitment to strengthening CIRDAP through enhanced financial, political, and intellectual support. Together, through regional cooperation and collective action, we will build resilient, prosperous, and empowered rural communities across Bangladesh and the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you. May CIRDAP continue to prosper.