



CIRDAP'S e-NEWS

March 2015

Collaboration with SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and CIRDAP

Director General CIRDAP visited SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Farmgate, Dhaka on 12 March 2015 to discuss and explore the common issues/agenda for Agriculture and Rural Development in South Asia. Director General CIRDAP briefly described the activities of CIRDAP and urged SAC to identify common platform where both the organizations can collaborate jointly. In this connection, the Meeting has identified the following several issues in agriculture and rural development for further collaborative programs by SAC and CIRDAP in SAARC Member Countries. The issues identified are:

Crop Insurance for risk coverage, ICT in Agriculture Development, Value addition of the agricultural commodities, Climate change Adaptation in Agriculture/Climate smart technologies, Quality Seed/Seed issues, Cooperative system in Agriculture development, Homestead Gardening of the farmers, Livestock and Fisheries development SME development, Solar Energy.



Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director-General, CIRDAP and Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director, SAC led the meeting from the respective organizations while Professionals from SAC and CIRDAP also attended in this meeting. The Meeting decided that Dr. Ibrahim Saiyed from CIRDAP and Ms. Nasrin from SAC will take initiative to prepare one concept note from the identified issues as priority area for the 9th Governing Body Meeting. It was also decided to jointly organize a seminar within June 2015.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Agricultural Postgraduates

CIRDAP is considering keenly introducing a programme on "Post-Doctoral Fellowship" for the fresh post graduate agriculture student in the CIRDAP Member Countries. Since, agriculture remains the largest employer in many countries in the region, future structural transformation must take into account agricultural transformation. To expedite transformation, the countries still need to promote long term productivity growth in agriculture and facilitate upgrading of their farms and agro-enterprises within the global value chain. In order to facilitate the process, CIRDAP initiative to publicize the research results of the most successful current agricultural postgraduate students of the renowned agricultural universities on selective thematic areas on biannual basis. Its purpose is to increase motivation among young researchers contributing to research and development in (a) Post Harvest Value Chain; (b) Micro Finance; and (c) Women Empowerment in Rural Development. It is expected that a number of student will get the opportunity to work in CIRDAP on a short-term basis and will be able to rewrite their research findings into a CIRDAP publications. Details of the scheme will be circulated shortly after getting approval from the CIRDAP Bodies.

Horticulture Export (HORTEX) Foundation, Bangladesh and CIRDAP Planning to conduct a Pilot Project on Fruit Processing

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP expressed his concern regarding CIRDAP role to provide services to its Member countries. Director General profoundly recognized the services rendered by the Organizations of Bangladesh to CIRDAP in various ways. DG, CIRDAP mentioned that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) is an area which has tremendous opportunities to benefit the rural poor while explaining how the agro processing industries in CMCs like Indonesia, Malaysia and India are flourishing. He expressed that CIRDAP would be pleased to collaborate with HORTEX in this regard. He invited HORTEX Officials for concrete suggestions.

In response, Dr Md. Abdul Jalil Bhuyan, Managing Director, HORTEX Foundation, Bangladesh narrated briefly the role of HORTEX in pursuant of the development of Horticulture sector in Bangladesh. He mentioned HORTEX Foundation has already made its network in every Upazila through contact farmers. He noted that Horticulture can play a significant role in the development of the economy by creating marketing opportunities for the rural poor farmers. He welcomed the idea of DG, CIRDAP in exploring the potential of application of the small technology at the farmers level to process the fruits such as jackfruit, pineapple etc.

After detailed discussion, the following areas were identified for mutual collaboration:

1. A pilot project may be initiated to provide the technology for small growers for processing their products
2. In the pilot project 2-3 groups of ten members each may be organized;
3. CIRDAP and HORTEX may jointly organize a workshop where NIFTEM, NAEM from India, FAMA from Malaysia may be invited
4. Networking of experts may be initiated
5. HORTEX will prepare a concept note for initiating the pilot project
6. CIRDAP will prepare a workplan after receiving the concept note of the pilot project
7. CIRDAP may take responsibility to provide required machineries for the pilot project

CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Application for Rural Development, March 9 - 18, 2015 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India

CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Application for Rural Development was held from 9-18 March 2015 at the National Institute of Rural



Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India. Director a.i., Training Division, CIRDAP, participated in this collaborative training programme. There were 18 participants in this training programme from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, who highlighted the impact of application of ICT in rural areas in developing countries. Since ICT application in different countries for the development of rural areas are not known to other countries, he mentioned this kind of training programme will

facilitate sharing and learning of good practices in ICT application for rural development. He urged the participants from different countries to learn from India's experience and also share with India the developments in their countries with regard to ICT application. The Course Coordinators Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran and Dr. Satish Chandra then briefed about the programme which was followed by country presentations .

The technical sessions of the training programme began with a session on Learning Solutions for Mass Education and the highlight of the session were as follows:

- e-Learning Applications to reach the mass people
- Adult Educations, Vocational Educations and Distance Learning through ICT enabled applications
- Learning Management Systems implementation for e-Governance in Educations sector.
- The Applications of Vikaspedia, Crowdsourcing, m-agriculture academy, e-shiksha.com, mKrishi etc for knowledge sharing to reduce the Digital Divide.

There was a session on ICT applications in Agriculture and the highlight of the session were as follows:

- Rice Knowledge Management Portal
- Web-portals for agriculture development, Applications of Green Chips to knowledge transfer to the farmers, remote sensing pest control systems, GIS based data processing applications for agriculture, GSM based Remote Control of Pump.
- Virtual Learning's for Knowledge Sharing around the Globe for developing Agriculture.

There was also a session on e-Governance and the highlight of the session was as follows:

- Government Services provided to the rural people through ICT enabled applications like-
 - One Stop Service Centre for Rural People for all kinds of Government Services like e-Seva
 - Unique Identity based various allowances distribution
 - Transparency in payment and monitoring systems for Rural People employment generation like MGNREGS
 - SMART card based payment distribution systems
 - Social Informatics applications for bridging the rural and urban people



There was a session on ICT applications in Women, Child & Health. The highlights of the session were as follows:

- ICT initiatives for Nutrition & Child Development Services like e-Sadhana
- Health and Nutrition Tracking Systems for Pregnant & Lactating Mothers in the rural areas.
- Tele-medicine services

The field visits of the training programme were organized to National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad; National Data Centre (NIC), Hyderabad; Remote sensing pest control systems; International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad; Software Technology Park of India, Hyderabad; Care Foundation, Hyderabad for Telemedicine Applications.



This is the first time a resource person from outside India, namely, Professor Dr. Alvin W. Yeo, Director, Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia was served as resource person. Dr. Alvin took the sessions on Best Practices of Malays i.e. on e-Bario as well as Rural Transformation Centre's Role in Rural Development in Malaysia which was a great learning for the participants, NIRD faculty members and students of PGDRDM.



The learnings from this training programme for Rural Development in respect of ICT in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) are:

- The overall scenario of CMCs in the field of Rural Development, Economic and Demographic Conditions.
- Competitive analysis of the CMCs of ICT applications in Rural Development.
- Orientation on some good practices in Rural Development using ICT in CMCs
- Geo Informatics Applications in Rural Development



DG CIRDAP Dr Cecep Effendi giving the valedictory session on 18th march urged the participants to apply their learning in this training programme for the benefit of the poor in their countries, After the Valedictory session on 18 March 2015, DG and DT a.i visited National Academy for Agriculture Research Management (NAARM), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, to met with the Director, NAARM, Dr. Ramkrishna, regarding collaboration with NAARM and ICRISAT to be part of the 'One Agriculture – One Science: Global Education Consortium'. The Director, NAARM was very keen to

collaborate with CIRDAP and he suggested for an MoU with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), which is the umbrella for all agricultural institutes in India and which will facilitate CIRDAP to work with any agricultural institute like NAARM.

Buidling Bridges



On 19 March 2015 DG, CIRDAP and Director a.i, Training Division, CIRDAP had meeting with Ms. Preetha Lall , Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), New Delhi, to discuss about the International Conference on Networking of Local Government Training Institutes (LGTI). Since the dates in May 2015 for conduct of the conference were not confirmed by NIRD&PR, it was discussed with Ms. Preetha and she suggested that SDC interested to organize the conference and is ready to take care of international travel costs and other expenses of other countries which are not members of SDC and CIRDAP. DG, CIRDAP agreed to take care of the countries which are not members of SDC but members of CIRDAP.



On 20 March 2015 a meeting was held with the Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI), Mr. J.K. Mohapatra, in his chamber. Several issues related to CIRDAP were discussed. DG thanked the Secretary, MoRD, GoI, for the support of Government of India, namely, for international training programmes, 5 slots of PGDRDM Fellowships and 20 ITEC Fellowships. Beside these he also thanked the Secretary, MoRD for the support to the VLC and GIS Centre which will be established in the ICT Centre, CIRDAP, Dhaka. Director, ICD, CIRDAP appraised the Secretary about the status of the VLC/GIS Centre. She mentioned that the global tender was issued and since the bidders did not meet the technical specifications, it was decided to re-tender.

DG also thanked the Secretary, MoRD for nominating highly qualified women for Screening Committee member for appointment of DG, CIRDAP for 2016-20. DG then appraised the Secretary about the forthcoming meetings of EC-30 and GC-20 to be held in August 2015 in Nadi, Fiji. He invited the Secretary to the EC-30 meeting as Chairperson of EC-29. DG also discussed with the Secretary about the visit of Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Government of India and Chairperson of GC-19 to visit Indonesia, Bhutan and Cambodia. DG suggested that an advance team may visit comprising the Joint Secretary or the Director (IC) of MoRD to arrange for the visit of Hon'ble Minister and GC-19 Chairperson. The Secretary requested the DG to send a letter accordingly. The Secretary informed that the visit to Bhutan by the Hon'ble Minister and GC-19 Chairperson is being coordinated through Ministry of External Affairs, GoI and will be done bilaterally. DG also informed the Secretary about the procedure for the appointment of the next DG, CIRDAP for 2016-20. The Secretary suggested that NIRD of similar programme can be organized with IRMA and he will discuss with them regarding this. DG invited the Secretary to visit other CMCs as Chairperson of the current EC-29. DG also suggested that India may take an initiative to organize a coordination meeting of regional organizations like SAARC, AARDO, ICRISAT, CIRDAP, etc. This could be done in a format of working group discussion to evolve a base for cooperation with each other for the development of the region.



DG and DT a.i also met the Joint Secretary, Mr. Atal Dulloo, Joint Secretary (IC), MoRD and discussed with him the visit of the Hon'ble Minister to Bhutan, Indonesia and Cambodia. The invitation letters for EC-30, GC-20 and RPD-VII to be signed by the Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary, MoRD as the capacity of Chairpersons of EC-29 and GC-19 respectively, were also discussed and handed over to Director (IC), MoRD, with the request to have the letters signed and send at the earliest as the invitations have to be sent to the CMCs at the earliest.

On 21 March 2015 DG and DT a.i visited ICAR Headquarters at Delhi to meet and discuss with the Asst. Director General, International Cooperation, ICAR, Dr. Alok Jha. DG briefed him about CIRDAP and expressed CIRDAP's interest to have linkage with ICAR so that the experience of Indian agricultural sector can be shared with other CMCs. Mr. Jha welcomed the suggestion and proposed for a draft MoU will be exchanged and finalized so that MoU may be signed for future collaboration between CIRDAP and ICAR. The DG and DT met Dr. (Mrs.) Ravinder Kaur, Director Acting of Indian agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and discussed with her regarding collaboration with CIRDAP. Thereafter DG and DT a.i went to the Indian Agricultural Sciences Institute (IASI) to visit major international agriculture related institutions established within the campus like Borlaug Institute of South Asian Studies (BISAS), CIMMYT, CAB, etc. DG and DT a.i returned to Dhaka on 22 March 2015.

Pre-Conference Session meeting with CIRDAP on Optional Protocol-3



There was a meeting at CIRDAP on pre-conference session meeting on Optional Protocol-3 on 15 March 2015. The Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on a Communications Procedure (OP3 CRC) sets out an international complaints procedure for child rights violations. It entered into force in April 2014, allowing children from states that have ratified to bring complaints about violations of their rights directly to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child if they have not found a solution at national level.

DG, Acting Director, Research, CIRDAP along with other relevant organization's representatives (e.g. SOS, Terre des hommes, Bangladesh Shishu Adikher Forum, EDUCO, Ain O Salish Kendra and SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh) were present at the meeting. The agenda of the pre-conference session meeting were: a) Objective of the seminar / consultation b) Child Rights situation and implementation mechanism in Bangladesh c) Importance/ justification of ratification of Optional Protocol -3 d) What will be the strategy/ approach to influence policy makers for ratifying OP-3 and role of the organizations who are working on this issue and e) Next step/ way forward after the consultation

At the beginning of the meeting all the participants were welcomed and also requested to Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG for chairing the meeting. Dr. Md. Enamul Haque, DND, SOS Bangladesh facilitated the meeting and he briefed the background of the meeting. After self-introduction Mr. Abdus Shahid Mahmood, Director, BSAF described about BSAF activities and then the objective of the meeting. He told that Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum Since its inception has been working with the Government on CRC Issue, after the ratification of UNCRC by Bangladesh Government. BSAF currently advocating for the ratification of Optional Protocol -3 by the state he also explain the importance of ratification of OP-3. BSAF is planning to invite the Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children affairs to be present as special guest and CD of Terre des hommes Netherlands, DG of CIRDAP and National Director of SOS Bangladesh will be present as guest of honour and BSAF chairperson will chair the seminar. A key note paper will be prepared by an expert.

Presentation on Community Radio

Nora Berger-Kern, a graduate from Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main had served as intern in CIRDAP for the duration of 6 weeks. She made a presentation on her exposure study visit to Bangladesh on Rural Development and Poverty Allivation during her internship period and also submitted a report as required.

Forthcoming Programmes

- Seminar on Empowering SME Women Entrepreneurs in Food Processing: Diabetic & Functional Food will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at CIRDAP International Conference Centre, CIRDAP Head Quarter, Dhaka, Jointly Organized by BIBM, CIRDAP, Protina Hm Food, Sponsored by IDLC Finance Ltd and Midland Bank Ltd.
- Efficacy of National Programmes on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation (RDR-2015) will be held on 05-08 May 2015 at NCRD, Islamabad, Pakistan.

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