

PRESS RELEASE**CIRDAP's Annual Review and Planning Seminar Held**

Dhaka, 28 March 2011: The two-day CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) - 2010 was inaugurated today at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka, by Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumdar, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Bangladesh and Chairperson of the Executive Committee (EC-27) of CIRDAP. Mr. Abdul Rahaman Shekib, Executive Director of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) and Chairperson of (Technical Committee (TC-26) of CIRDAP, Mr. Aatur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP, and Dr. Majibar Rahman, coordinator for CIARPS also presided over the inaugural session.

The CIARPS seminar reviews the Centre's activities, programmes/projects carried out in the previous year, and formulate the Centre's work plan for the current year, reviews suggestions / recommendations of the earlier CIARPS and immediate last policy body meetings.

In the inaugural session, the Chief Guest Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumdar mentioned that although rural development and poverty alleviation has been a priority area for the governments, there is still a wide gap between the delivery of services and the receiving end of the services. For example, Bangladesh produces 30 million tonnes of rice, still poverty is very much prevalent in the country. He urged the relevant agencies and bodies to put in more efforts to bridge the gap. He also invited CIRDAP to play the role of a regional think-tank in the area of rural development and poverty alleviation.

Mr. Abdul Rahaman Shekib, Executive Director of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development expressed his government's firm commitment to the cause of 'comprehensive agricultural rural development approach' spelled out in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and appreciated being a member of the CIRDAP platform for exchanging experiences of rural development among its 15 member countries.

CIRDAP Professionals, including the Heads of all divisions and other Technical and General staff attended the inaugural and business session of the seminar.

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, inter-governmental, and autonomous institution, established in 1979 to act as a regional platform to promote rural development. Its member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

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