

**Consideration of the Report of the Twenty First Meeting of
CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-21)**

1. The twenty-first meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee hereinafter referred to as (TC-21) was held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 15-17 December 2005. TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Iran, and others such as IRD expert (Japan) and Rural Development Officer, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok attended the meeting.
2. H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Abi Musa Asa'ari bin Mohammed Nor, Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry inaugurated the TC-21 meeting. He welcomed the distinguished delegates of the Technical Committee and Director General of CIRDAP and conveyed the good wishes of the Government of Malaysia to the delegates from the member countries of CIRDAP. He mentioned that the Govt. of Malaysia has decided to shift the contact institution from Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry to Ministry of Rural and Regional Development and hoped that this new institutional setting will be more appropriate.
3. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP in his welcome address said that there is an eagerness among the CMCs to learn from Malaysia as a successful model. He said that two thirds of the world poor are living in the Asia Pacific region and hence rural development and poverty alleviation are on top of the agenda. He also referred to rural development and poverty alleviation plan of action of ASEAN and SAARC regions and said that CIRDAP is willing to contribute towards achieving these targets.
4. He welcomed the TC members and thanked the Government of Malaysia for hosting TC-21 meeting and appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry for organizing the meeting. He appreciated the warm hospitality extended to TC members during their stay in Malaysia. The Director General, CIRDAP also expressed his thanks to Malaysia for the cooperation and support extended to CIRDAP during the period.
5. At the beginning of the business session , Indonesia was elected as the chairperson of TC-21. After discussing different issues the following suggestions were made. The follow-up of the suggestions of TC-21 are given below:

Suggestion	Follow up action
Suggestion: 1/TC-21/2005 The members showed continued	CIRDAP while keeping within resources available, expanded exposure visits

<p>interest to expand the programme activities and share successful experiences with each other through the facilitation of CIRDAP.</p>	<p>cum training programme for CMCs, and also published success stories, information in CIRDAP Development Digest RD/PA, Rural Development/Poverty Alleviation and website. Policy dialogue series on RD/PA is to be held on regular basis.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 2/TC-21/2005 Pakistan has suggested that CIRDAP membership drive should be vigorously pursued in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>	<p>DG, CIRDAP met H.E the President of East Timor (Timor L'este) and had discussion on the possibility of East Timor joining CIRDAP family. Also, observers from Royal Bhutan Government were invited to EC-25/GC-15.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 3/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP should discuss ways to utilize comparative advantage in networking with CLIs to strengthen its international standing in the global development arena.</p>	<p>DG, CIRDAP presented a paper on 'From the Peasant Charter to the ICARRD: An Overview of the Current Trends and Emerging Issues in Rural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region' at the major International FAO Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) held in Brazil. This paper was prepared in collaboration with CCMs. It was well received by the conference , and now, CIRDAP is playing a major role in ICARRD follow-up action along with FAO.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 4/TC-21/2005 A Policy Unit may be developed at CIRDAP to facilitate timely and adequate interaction on rural development issues within the Asia-Pacific region.</p>	<p>The Research Division of CIRDAP has initiated the Policy Dialogue series to interact with policy makers, administrators and academics of CMCs. The first of the series was held in Bangladesh. The second is to be held in Philippines in 2007. Hence in view of the restricted resources, establishment of a special Policy Unit was postponed.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 5/TC-21/2005 Increased use of CLI information on rural development and poverty alleviation is necessary. CLIs also may assist in obtaining published data.</p>	<p>In the preparation of Rural Development Report 2007, CLIs are directly involved in providing country data and information. Further newspaper articles on RD/PA from 14 CMCs are collected regularly online and posted on CIRDAP website. Further website address of CMCs major</p>

	<p>data sources (eg. Census and Statistics Central Bank) are also posted on CIRDAP website. Access to world Bank databases is also provided through the same.</p>
<p>suggestion: 6/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP may concentrate on successful rural development and poverty alleviation models and identify critical factors for success to be used by CLIs.</p>	<p>Major focus of Pilot Project Division is now on the dynamics of rural development models. Streamlining and problem solving of the IFAD –ANGOC-CIRDAP Sunamganj Project in Bangladesh is now being carried out. Further assistance is also provided to ANGOC in developing a resources book on project modeling.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 7/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP is to prepare concrete proposals to be sent to CMCs/global partners to set up and operationalise the fund.</p>	<p>Already CIRDAP has written to the Japanese Government through Chairman of GC-15 requesting to resume funding for CIRDAP projects. Further, DG CIRDAP also requested CMCs to assist in setting up a special fund.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 8/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP may proceed on bidding for projects for providing technical services in the areas of rural development and poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>Several project proposals have seen prepared and sent to FAO,IFAD,SAARC Secretariat and Afghanistan. Some of these are receiving serious consideration by these agencies for possible funding.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 9/TC-21/2005 While CIRDAP will clarify the role and mode of engaging the eminent experts, CLIs will be assisting in identifying such people in CMCs.</p>	<p>Action has been taken to update CIRDAP's Directory of Experts on RD/PA with the assistance from CLIs. Research Division is working on suitable modalities which are expected to be presented in the TC-22 Meeting.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 10/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP is to act as a clearing house to develop proposals in association with link institutions so as to make them acceptable to donor agencies.</p>	<p>CIRDAP has taken into consideration view points of all CMCs in the preparation of Comprehensive Knowledge Generation Mechanism Project Proposal, which was submitted to IFAD for funding. Project proposals forwarded by Iran are to be pursued further. CIRDAP is also in the process to assist Afghanistan in establishing a rural development training institute and strengthening local government system.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 11/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP and CLIs IT infrastructure is</p>	<p>Already CIRDAP has taken several steps to strengthen its IT base. Professional</p>

to be developed so as to cater to the regional networking needs.	assistance of NIRD, India to be obtained in this regard. It has also assisted CLI in Bangladesh (BARD) to develop its website. These servicing activities are to be expanded.
Suggestion: 12/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP and CLIs to establish inter-linked websites for exchange of information on IRD policies, practices and experiences.	CIRDAP has interlinked with all CLI websites through its website. New features incorporating IRD programmes in CLIs are being added.
Suggestion: 13/TC-21/2005 CIRDAP website should post all the website addresses of CLIs.	All website addresses of CLIs and CCMs have been posted on CIRDAP website.

Proposition-1/EC-26/2007

- **EC recommends for approval of GC-16 of the TC-21 Report**

**Consideration of the Report of the Twenty Second Meeting of CIRDAP
Technical Committee (TC-22)**

1. The Twenty-Second Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee hereinafter referred to as TC-22 was held at Bandung, Indonesia from 12 to 14 September 2006. TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Afghanistan attended the meeting.
2. Mr. Ayip Muflich, Director General, Community and Village Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, inaugurated the meeting on behalf of the Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia. Mr. Arwar E Surbakti , Director for Community Training and Institution Chaired the inaugural session of the Technical Committee (TC-22). Mr. K. Paembonan, Secretary Directorate General, Community and Village Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs , Republic of Indonesia was the special guest.
3. Mr. Ayip Muflich, Director General in his address mentioned that the Government of Indonesia has decided to utilize the expertise of CIRDAP–SOCSEA in providing services to the ongoing rural development programme of Indonesia and generate resources for its functioning . Accordingly he invited CIRDAP to develop a comprehensive proposal and submit to the Government of Indonesia for consideration as early as possible.
4. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP in his welcome speech said that CIRDAP has completed all the groundwork for its revitalization. Now it is time to deliver results which requires greater trust and support from its Member Countries. In this context, he noted that the Government of India has been generously providing technical and financial support towards capacity building in CMCs. The Government of Indonesia is considering to utilize CIRDAP expertise for providing services to its on-going rural development programmes. He thanked the Government of Indonesia for hosting the TC-22 Meeting and appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs for organizing the meeting. He also appreciated the warm hospitality extended to TC members during their stay in Indonesia.
5. Mr. Atiqur Rahman, Lead Strategist and Policy Coordinator, Policy Division External Affairs Department, IFAD, Rome, Italy, said that in the backdrop of significant changes in the rural development scene, CIRDAP could play very useful roles in promoting rural development and in reducing poverty in the Asia and the Pacific region. He further suggested that CIRDAP could open up dialogues with all partners involved in rural development including the civil society and representatives of the civil society.

6. Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD) , Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson of Executive Committee, CIRDAP said the Government of Bangladesh has taken initiatives to construct a multi-storied new building for CIRDAP with facilities for an international conference centre.
7. After discussing different issues the following suggestions were made. The follow-up of the suggestions of TC-22 are given below:

Suggestions	Follow-up action
<p>Suggestion: 1/TC-22/2006 To link with the poverty portals of FAO and IFAD , it was suggested to contact web-master of the concerned organizations.</p>	<p>Already linked up with FAO and IFAD poverty portals through CIRDAP website.</p>
<p>Suggestion: 2/TC-22/2006 CIRDAP should develop better communication linkages with international organizations like FAO, IFAD etc through E- net to utilize opportunities and resources, including human resources available for rural development in CMCs.</p>	<p>E- bulletins and press release are currently being exchanged through E-net. Opportunities to participate in international conference such as MfDR are explored and utilized.</p>
<p>Suggestion : 3/TC-22/2006 CIRDAP should envision a strategic approach to fit into a common agenda with CMCs and in partnership with FAO and IFAD to project a new image internationally.</p>	<p>CIRDAP is following its new strategic approach approved by the GC-15 and also working in line with demands of its CMCs. After ICARRD, held in Brazil and follow on interactions and communication by DG with FAO and IFAD, CIRDAP is now well focused and has a better image internationally. CIRDAP has been invited to participate in global events such as ICARRD, MfDR ,AARDO etc and made its presence felt.</p>
<p>Suggestion : 4/TC-22/2006 Networking between CIRDAP and other regional organizations needs expansion through a new strategic approach with full participation of CMCs.</p>	<p>Already action has been taken to approach ASEAN, and SAARC through CMCs.</p>

<p>Suggestion : 5/TC-22/2006 The proposed format/outline for RD report 2007 be revised by CIRDAP focusing on agrarian reform and rural development. It should go beyond ICARRD objectives and cover other areas like employment generation, rural governance and MDG, non farm sector etc., simultaneously downsizing and reshaping the indices already used for generating more focused country reports. Existing documents are to be utilized and the draft report prepared by CIRDAP is to be shared between countries for comments and suggestions before finalization.</p>	<p>The outline of the RDR-2007 was reformulated based on the recommendation /suggestion of the TC-22 incorporating the theme “Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: The issues Concerns and Future Challenges. The reformulated outline has been circulated among the TC members to prepare a country report from each CMCs and submit to CIRDAP. However, Pakistan, Philippines, Srilanka and Bangladesh ie 4 CMCs out of 14 CMCs have submitted their reports. CIRDAP prepared a draft report utilizing the existing documents and information received from the CMCs and circulated the draft report among the CMCs for their comments and suggestions.</p>
<p>Suggestion : 6/TC-22/2006 CMCs may take necessary action to send their proposal to their respective Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development to raise the issue of repositioning rural development as an interdependent component of agrarian reform and to work for follow up actions. It is suggested to present the countries view point that RD is important in FAO reform process.</p>	<p>Suggestions of the TC-22 have already been circulated. CMCs are likely to take up their proposals with the Ministry as suggested.</p> <p>A policy dialogue on the role of Agrarian Reform on rural development of the CMCs will be held in between the GC-16 and EC-26. A separate working paper and draft report have been circulated. Repositioning rural development as an interdependent component of agrarian reform will be shared during policy dialogue being held at Manila.</p> <p>FAO recently in its policy options deemphasized rural development and squeezing its rural development wing. CMCs should re-act upon this as FAO is the parent organization of CIRDAP, majority of the population live in the rural areas in CMCs .</p>
<p>Suggestion: 7/ TC-22/2006 It was also suggested to include civil society representation in TC and other forums of CIRDAP for meaningful long term partnership.</p>	<p>In the last TC-22 meeting only representative from FAO and IFAD attended the meeting. Other regional organizations like BIRD, IDRC, and ICIMOD etc were invited but could not attend due to their own pre occupation.</p> <p>Civil society is a wide area and especially in Bangladesh it is not easy to single out who should represent in the CIRDAP forums. We are to rethink what kind of interactions</p>

	CIRDAP may have with the Civil society. If Civil society matters to CIRDAP we can discuss it in the any other matter.
<p>Suggestion: 8/TC-22/2006 Delegates appreciated the idea of Strengthening infrastructure at CIRDAP. For financial contributions to build additional facilities at CIRDAP, suitable proposals may be placed at the next EC/GC meeting.</p>	Government of Bangladesh has agreed to present “Strengthening infrastructure at CIRDAP “ as an agenda for discussion in the GC-16/EC-26 meeting . It is now presented as a separate agenda item No. 12 for discussion and approval

Proposition -2 /EC-26/2007

- **EC recommends for approval of GC-16 of the TC-22 report.**