



PROJECT PROPOSAL

- Project Title** : **Regional training Programme on “Decentralised Governance and Delivery of Services – Way to Good Governance”**
- Project Duration** : Two weeks
- Implementing Agency** : Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with the sponsoring agency
- Country Coverage** : Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam
- Budget** : US \$ 63, 750 approximately
- Venue** : To be decided
- Funding Agency** : To be identified

Introduction

Decentralised Governance plays a crucial role in designing better way of the good governance and Delivery of Services and Poverty Reduction both in the developed nations and the developing nations. The Asian and the Pacific region is mostly affected by palpable poverty next only to the African region and the rural areas in the CIRDAP nations are more daunted with myriad problems like hunger, poverty, unemployment, lack of good physical infrastructure facilities and poor delivery of services. The Decentralised Governance can alter the whole complexion and provide institutional support for the delivery of services.

Although the world is turning into urban over the years, still over two-thirds population across the globe of poorest regions live in rural areas. Further, disturbing is

that more than half of the world's population lives on less than US \$ 2 per day. The South Asian region has the highest rate of poverty but other regions also have poorer incomes as a sizeable chunk of them live below the internationally defined poverty line of US \$ 2 per day.

The priorities of rural development in CIRDAP countries focus on improving grassroots participation through decentralized governance and service delivery. The FAO's medium term plan is oriented to make the decentralization process towards the overall development of rural communities. As a result, the global priority will be interdisciplinary action and local institutional building to improve capacity for achieving sustainable rural livelihoods.

In many parts of the globe, the rural population still lacks access to safe drinking water as one-third rural residents lack access to safe drinking water which is the basic requisite for human sustenance let alone access to other basic services.

Need

The select key indicators of human development for the 14 CIRDAP nations are that Lao PDR has a population of 6 millions in contrast to India which has a massive population of 1104 millions. The size and population of a country obviously throw different challenges. The infant mortality is the lowest in Malaysia with a low rate of 10 while it is the highest mark of 172 in Afghanistan. The life expectancy at birth is 42 years in Afghanistan while it is 73 years in Sri Lanka and Malaysia. The coverage of primary education is low in India with 81.0 per cent and further low in Bangladesh with 73.0 per cent and Lao PDR 74.0 per cent while in Nepal it is 78.0 per cent.

As regards daily income 83.0 per cent rural population in Bangladesh and 81.0 per cent rural population in India obtain below US \$ 2 per day while the figures for Iran and Malaysia are 7 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. Around half of the population living in the CIRDAP nations is in the shackles of poverty while considering internationally accepted standards.

With the given poverty scenario and poorer incomes in most of the CIRDAP nations and with the extremities of different dimensions on various key indices of development, strategies have to be evolved to tackle the twin problems of poverty reduction and delivery of services for a better living space in a rural setting.

Situation Analysis

Countries like India evolved strategies for poverty reduction by identifying micro enterprises through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and creation of employment generation programme like NREGS and BRGF and to give a fillip to RD strategy, Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) is launched to halt mass migration to urban centres in search of livelihoods. Besides, the Local Governments are well equipped with best practices like Good Governance and E-Governance for better delivery of services.

With vastness in size of a continent and bulk population as massive as over one-half of the population of CIRDAP nations, India has a rich experience spanning over 5 decades in different models of rural development projects for poverty reduction in different strategies suitable to different terrains. The best practices can be replicated elsewhere while others too have their own success stories.

Equally significant is even less populous nations like Sri Lanka achieved tremendous results in respect of sectors like education and health and by any means on par with some of the developed nations. And to add further, the health projects in Sri Lanka achieved good results with less infant mortality and high level of life expectancy more akin or on par with the western world and the same is the case with Malaysia.

Iran and Malaysia are the two nations with less than 9 per cent population living on poorer incomes of US \$ 2 per day. Conversely, the rest of the CIRDAP nations have larger population with very meager incomes thereby underlining the need for effective rural development strategies for poverty reduction vis-à-vis creation of good infrastructure facilities for better delivery of services.

Issues to be discussed

In the digital world, the role of IT in Good Governance are e-governance, Poverty Reduction and for effective delivery of services cannot be undermined. The Decentralised Governance can deliver better services like education, health, protected water supply, sanitation, roads, communications, Public Distribution System, power and other basic civic services of local salience and specific nature on demand driven basis. The Science and Technology Intervention in Micro Projects of poverty reduction and delivery of services are of more significance.

The DWCRA groups (SHGs) in Andhra Pradesh, India, Kutumbashree in Kerala, India are the best micro enterprises for poverty reduction. Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Health Projects in Sri Lanka can provide stimuli to replicate these practices.

The watersheds of indigenous methods, bio-farming techniques, soil and water conservation practices, micro enterprises (traditional and modern), employment generation projects, solid waste disposal and conversion of waste into compost and energy and micro energy project like wind energy, solar energy, food processing, value addition to agro products, road net-working, market networking, education networking and health networking are the gray areas requiring adequate thrust in poverty reduction strategies.

Objectives

- To share knowledge of Decentralised Governance systems in participating countries and Innovative Methods at cutting-edge level of administration;
- To focus on available best practices of good governance in various countries for poverty reduction and delivery of services;

- To highlight technology interventions like Information Technology, e-governance for support of decentralized good governance.

Methodology

The programme is a forum for debate, discussion, sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices among the participants of the 14 CIRDAP nations nominated by their Governments. Presentation of respective country reports will provide better insight for appreciation of the prevailing situation. Moreover, issue based discussion will enrich the output.

The need and the role of Private Initiatives, the convergence of Local Governments, NGOs and Cooperatives can be debated to address the problem of poverty reduction vis-à-vis employment generation and effective delivery of services.

The success stories of different projects and different models in 14 CIRDAP nations will be the hallmark of the programme. Field visit will be organized outside the country to expose them to innovative and best practices in the field.

In fine, the basic services required by the people in general and the poor in particular depends on human settlements and terrains in which they live. The service provider, the people and the policy maker are the key actors in the delivery of services. However, Primary Education, Health and Nutrition Services, Drinking Water, Sanitation and Electricity should be the core areas with broader options of need based services of demand driven nature.

Participants

The course is designed for RD professionals, Senior and middle level officers of Ministries/Development departments like Rural Development, Local Self Government,

Agriculture, Water Resources development, etc of CIRDAP member countries are expected to be the participants.

Output

- Models of decentralized governance and strategies and for people’s participation can be brought out.
- The Innovative Methods and Best Practices will be documented
- Poverty Reduction Strategies and Delivery of Service Mechanism will be highlighted
- Interaction with participants will provide scope for further dialogue and collaboration action

Implementing Organisation

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh in collaboration with sponsoring agency.

Budget

	(in US\$)
1. Travel Costs for member countries at the average US \$ 1000 per participant for 20 persons including CIRDAP Officials	20,000
2. Travel Costs for 5 resource persons and NIRD Coordinators @ 1000/person	5,000
3. Out of Pocket Allowance for 25 participants @ US \$ 30/day for 15 days	11,250
4. Organizational costs (board/lodging, guest speaker’s travel, honorarium, material, utilities and others)	15,000
5. Expenses of Field visits outside the venue (Transport, boarding, lodging, organizational costs	6,000
6. Host Institution’s Expenses/Honourarium	500
7. Unforeseen Contingencies	1,000

8. CIRDAP's overhead (covering communications with member countries, publication and distribution of reports, etc.) 500

Total: US \$ 63, 750

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